Campus Times

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Event considers sexuality, identity

Olivia Russo
News Editor

Students gathered Wednesday in a Ludwick Center classroom for another installment of the Belongingness Lecture series. This week's topic was "Sexual Identity, Homophobia and Heterosexism."

The lecture started with an introduction by Daniel Loera, director of multicultural affairs, but was led by Alesha Knox, director for cultural programming and black student services.

"I think today really is an area of identity that lots of folks sometimes will run from because of the messaging they've received in their life," Loera said. "I think it's important who we see ourselves as and be able to talk about all the aspects of our identity."

To start off, students went around the room sharing their name, pronouns and how comfortable they were with the topic. From there, Knox gave a small introduction as well as some of the key terms and themes the discussion is meant to go over.

"I really want us to just go in the context of thinking about while I'm saying these definitions, it is still a personal preference," Knox said. "Someone can identify as a male but dress up more feminine, and that is okay. There's knowing that and there's space for that."

Knox introduced the first activity to garner some discussion. Everyone started at the center of the room, symbolizing neutrality. Then she would read out a prompt, motioning to which side of the room would agree or disagree, and students would move accordingly based on their personal experiences.



Olivia Russo

Daniel Loera, director of multicultural affairs, and Alesha Knox, director for cultural programming and Black student services, speak Wednesday in the Ludwick Center as a part of the weekly Belongingness lecture series.

The prompts covered an individual's home community and their feelings on the LGBTQIA+ community, the campus and their feelings, as well as personal experiences of being an ally or a member of the community.

After a few prompts, Knox stopped reading and asked everyone if they would like to explain why they are standing where they are, as well as their answers to the other prompts given before.

"Oftentimes, even in places where that's the type of environment they want to foster, there's a lot of people who either will descend to it or largely don't feel comfortable with that kind of environment," Matthew Marquez, sophomore psychology major, said "I normally error on the side of caution, but I'm very confident with who I am,"

Knox then wrapped up the activity, and moved onto the next portion, which was a type of pop quiz. Everyone returned to their seats, and Knox came around with a sheet of paper with a matching activity on it.

The paper had the definition of terms and the goal was to do the best one can do by themselves to match the terms together. After a short amount of time, people were to partner up with someone else they did not know to go over their answers and discuss the terms.

Once the discussion was brought back to the whole group, members pointed out certain terms and definitions that stood out to them. Terms like 'transsexual' and 'queer' came up as they were on the paper, but they are terms that have been topics of discussion in LGBTQIA+ community spaces on what their meaning is. Stacey Strickland, adjunct dance professor, brings up when he was going up the terms gay and queer were used interchangeably, so having to attach each one to a separate definition was more difficult.

"Now, with more consciousness, just learning the nuances and that being given the nuances in between these definitions, I still have some work to do with it," Strickland said.

After defining the terms, Knox introduces one of the two videos played, which gives a history of pride, however she mentions that the video is years old now and can be outdated with the current administration.

"I don't even, with full transparency, know how to even have this conversation of seeing all the progress that has happened and knowing that we are taking a lot of steps back. We need to fight, continue to fight, but I'm also sad that all of this work has been done," Knox said.

The second video was from 2019, which ended on a light note with happiness on the thought of growth and progress. However, Knox mentions that it is outdated and that although the history is good, the ending would be different if it was made today. Knox wrapped up the conversation by talking about the spectrum of identity and how that is always changing.

The next Belongingness Lecture is titled "Racial Identity and Racism" and will be held at 11 a.m. April 9.

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On the Cover

Senior attacker Reiley Burton looks to make an offensive pass against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on Wednesday at the La Verne Aquatic Center. With the 20-5 loss to the Athenas, the Leopards are sixth in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with a record of 3-3. / photo by Ethan Anderson

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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**.

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Alvarez discusses growth, mentors

Prof reflects on 38 years at ULV

Marina Bravo
Staff Writer

About 150 La Verne community members attended the final lecture of Paul Alvarez, beloved professor of kinesiology, who is retiring this year after 38 years at the University.

The lecture was in La Fetra hall Tuesday.

The crowd size was a tribute to Alvarez's legacy and the many lives he's touched over the years.

Alvarez's presentation, part of the regular faculty lecture series, was different from other such lectures in that it was personal, focused on his career and contribution to the University community, the University's impact on him, and his life story.

Alvarez said he was not always behind the scenes in the world of athletics.

After competing in track all through high school and college, Alvarez had to take a break following an injury.

His own need to rehab from his injury introduced him to the world of athletic training.

Alvarez received his bachelor of science in physical education with a focus on athletic training at California State University, Sacramento.

From there he became the athletic trainer for Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, while he was studying for his master of science at the University of Oregon.

He subsequently earned his doctorate in education at U.C. Riverside.

Alvarez became a Leo in 1987, starting as a part-time assistant athletic trainer. He became a full-time faculty member in 1989.

Alvarez shared the roles he played at the University and he talked about his own mentors and his mentorship of others.

"A good mentor won't shoot you down," Alvarez said. "They are people you should trust."

He took the time to highlight how different people at ULV have impacted him.

Alvarez referenced his dreams and goals throughout the lecture, and how with the help of mentors he was able to accomplish so many of these.

One of his most notable achievements was being a part of the athletic training staff for the U.S. Team to the World University Games.

In 2009, Alvarez attended the Games in Belgrade, Serbia.

Subsequently, Alvarez has been invited back every two years for each of the Games.

He and his family will attend the Games this summer in Germany.

Alvarez credited his wife, Jennifer Alvarez, a teacher, for her unwavering support in pursuing his dreams.

Among his many professional accomplishments, his experiences and impacts at the University were at the top.

Alvarez's love for ULV and its people is evidently mutual.

"We are going to miss you," said Ian Lising, associate professor of rhetoric and communication studies. "Your spirit has lifted all of us. We are never going to get that back."

"Paul is always so generous with his time and advice," added Al Clark, emeritus professor of humanities. "I have known him his entire time here. He himself is a mentor."

Alvarez was pleasantly surprised by the turnout at Tuesday's lecture – and grateful.

"I was warmed," Alvarez said. "The staff is very important to me; they do so much for so many."

Alvarez said he is most looking forward to travel following his retirement in May.

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Vicente Rodriguez

Paul Alvarez, professor of kinesiology, delivers his last lecture on personal growth and the mentors that he had throughout his journey, before his retirement on Tuesday in La Fetra Lecture Hall. He has been an athletic trainer for the University of La Verne for 38 years and has worked with the World University Games for 16 years. He talks about mentoring others in his life.



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Happenings

‘Spring Of Hope’

The Southland Symphony Orchestra will perform the “Spring of Hope” concert including the University of La Verne Chamber Singers at 4 p.m. on April 6 at Bethel Congregational Church, at 536 N. Euclid Ave. in Ontario.

The featured soloists will be soprano Ariel Pisturino, tenor John Dick and bass Michal Dawson Connor.

The pieces performed will be Schubert’s “Mass No. 2 in G major, D 167,” Mendelssohn’s “Verleih uns Frieden; La alborada de la Esperanza” and “Mira el Sol.”

Tickets are $10 for general admission

For more information, visit **southlandsymphony.com**.

Eclipse Quartet Concert

The Eclipse Quartet will play at Harvey Mudd College Sunday.

The concert includes composers Bill Alves and Howard Franzin.

The concert also will feature two quartets singing compositions by Los Angeles-based Akyshaya Avirl Tucker.

The concert starts at 7 p.m. in Drinkward Recital Hall on the Harvey Mudd campus.

Admission is free.

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

‘SoCal Critters’ Exhibit

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 June 29.

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

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

—Zachary Grech

Poet reflects on Antarctica trip

Alicia Naranjo
Staff Writer

The Benton Museum of Art on the Pomona College campus hosted a poetry reading Tuesday featuring Quan Barry, poet and professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Barry, who spoke before a large crowd, discussed how travel, spirituality, history and injustices have inspired her work.

She read from her previously published works and also read excerpts from her upcoming horror book, “The Unveiling.”

“I have always written about things that have happened in the world and injustices that I have seen,” Barry said.

“The Unveiling” is set in Antarctica, and based on the short parts she read Tuesday, is chilling – not just because of its icy setting.

Barry also talked about her inspiration for her poetry and her forthcoming novel.

The novel was inspired by the poetry she wrote after a 2004 trip to Antarctica.

Additionally, she had much to say on the current state of the world and the movement she calls “post doom.”



Thatiana Gibbs

Quan Barry speaks at Pomona College’s Benton Museum of Art on Tuesday, sharing insights into her literary career and upcoming projects. Born in Saigon and raised in Boston’s North Shore, Barry is a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the author of eight books, including the award-winning novel “We Ride Upon Sticks.”

She said she believes we need to admit to ourselves that there is no saving the Earth.

Audience members were moved by her talk.

“(She) did such a wonderful job of walking us through her process of genre and history and how to use writing for social justice,” said Cherene Sherrard-Johnson, professor and chair of the English department at Pomona College.

“Incorporating everything she knows about natural history, human history, religion, spirituality and also what it means to be a witness,” she said.

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Sound bath offers mental health reset

Marina Bravo
Staff Writer

On Tuesday the Ludwick Center Sacred Space welcomed about 25 students and faculty for an afternoon of relaxation to destress from their day by participating in a sound bath.

The event was a collaboration between the Institute of Mental Health and Psychological Well-Being and the music department.

Grace Zhao, professor and music department chair, has been working with the psychology department to host this and similar events that provided a calming environment for students and faculty.

Zhao and the psychology faculty are also using these events for research – and collecting data on how music helps ease the mind.

Practitioners from SomerSkye Energy Works, a Pasadena-based organization that puts on these workshops and breathwork classes, took participants on a spiritual relaxing journey through music.

Participants were given yoga mats and pillows to relax and listen to the music.

Somer Waters, co-founder of SomerSkye Energy Works, a sound healer and musician, played various instruments while Skye Ray provided the sound bath.

Waters played the drum, harp, gong and many other instruments during the workshop offering various auditory opportunities for participants.

> ‘People don’t realize how much they have stored in their body.’
> *—Somer Waters, SomerSkye Energy Works*

Waters and Ray said these types of healing arts are powerful.

They said they enjoy providing such experiences for communities.

“People don’t realize how much they have stored in their body,” Waters said. “(This work) is like we hold you like a good parent.”

They’ve been doing this for more than 10 years.

They shared their journey on how they became healing artists.

Waters talked about making the transition from performer to healer.

Previously a street performer in Boston, he re-thought his life trajectory after the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

In the aftermath, he said, people would turn to him to seek comfort and peace of mind. It was then that he realized that his duty was so much more than just to entertain.

The Tuesday workshop on campus allowed just the right amount of peace of mind and healing for students, sort of a mental health reset, and a chance to be in the moment, participants said.

“We need things like this,” Charity Davis, sophomore English major, said. “This was my first time coming to one of these events…I feel renewed.”

Other participants opened up about how they felt seen by the University by hosting events like this.

With midterms underway, students and faculty are under a lot of pressure. The heavy workload often leaves little room for self care.

“I feel very appreciative that certain staff members on campus recognize the need to address and improve student wellness,” said senior biology major Jenieva Black, who participated in the sound bath event.

The Tuesday event was the second in this series. The previous event was the “wonder gathering,” which also offered a relaxing musical experience.

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Women's water polo sinks to CMS

CC Flaherty
Staff Writer

The women's water polo struggled to keep up with Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on Wednesday at the La Verne Aquatic Center, leading to a 20-5 loss.

This was the Leopards' first time facing off against the Athenas this year for conference play.

They put their best foot forward despite missing some players due to illness.

"Just making sure we had all the ladies in the water and giving it 110%. Whatever illnesses they have or without you know, they did a great job…they all played the entire game and finished it off," head coach Robert Echeverria said.

During the first quarter, the Athenas jumped on the Leopards from the start with seven goals being scored in the first 8 minutes of the match.

The Leopards responded with senior attacker Reiley Burton scoring the first two goals.

"I was excited to get better. I know they're a really good team and I think it was a good opportunity for us to work on things and just get better for our next game," Burton said.

In the second quarter the Leopards kept good movement of the ball and great passing which led to senior center Brianna Zapata contributing a goal.

The Athenas' communication and consistency frustrated the Leopards, causing them to turn over the ball and get penalty calls against them.

"Every quarter we were just trying to push to move more. They are a really good defensive team but any defense can be broken down if you are moving," Zapata said. "I think that we got a little stagnant because they are a heavy defensive team when the opposite should have been to move more."

In the third quarter the Leopards were still down, 10-3, and were in a struggle on offense.

The Athenas were moving fast and aggressively to the ball, beating the Leopards' reach.

The Leopards kept pushing through when junior attacker Brooklyn Young got in on the action scoring a goal.

"We need to do whatever we can defensively to stop them from scoring and then continue to produce on offense," Young said. "We have been really trying to work on movement and get passes. Also having everyone have a turn on defense and offense and just playing our best and doing that the entire game."

The Leopards were still down, 15-4, in the fourth quarter and the Athenas continued to be all gas and no breaks on offense, scoring five more goals.

The Leopards' record moves to 4-13 overall and 3-3 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The team continue conference play at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Allred Aquatics Center against Chapman.

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Ethan Anderson

Senior defender Brianna Zapata cocks her arm back to toss the ball across the pool as the Leopards test the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps defense Wednesday at the La Verne Aquatic Center. The Leopards lost, 20-5. Their next game is against Chapman at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the Allred Aquatics Center in Orange.



Ethan Anderson

Members of the women's water polo team applaud each other during pre-game introductions Wednesday at the La Verne Aquatic Center. The Leopards went on to lose to the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Athenas, 20-5.





Strykers pay tribute to Israel Sesay

Leila El Sabbagh
Sports Editor

The Empire Strykers celebrated their last home game Sunday at Toyota Arena against their rivals, the San Diego Sockers, losing 9-8 in overtime.

The Strykers were also celebrating defender Israel "Izzy" Sesay's final game after announcing his retirement from the Major Arena Soccer League.

The game began with honoring Sesay by making him the first Stryker in franchise history to have his number retired.

Sesay was drafted to the Los Angeles Galaxy in August of 2007 then later made his first Major League Soccer appearance in September of the same year.

Sesay came to the United States as an immigrant from Sierra Leone where he would begin to set new standards for players in the MLS and MASL.

Sesay was a part of the inaugural Ontario Fury team which eventually rebranded to what is now known as the Empire Strykers.

Sesay scored the first goal in Fury franchise history against the Dallas Sidekicks.

"I don't like to pull on the sentimental stuff because I don't think it helps," head coach Onua Obasi said. "I think it hurts. But I did tell the team, if you need a little extra energy this is his last game."

Midfielder Marco Fabián shared his experience with Sesay as a teammate.

"It's been a pleasure just to share the field with him and we're going to try and keep going to give him a good send off," Fabián said.

The first quarter was off to a quick start when Sockers midfielder Christian Gutierrez scored in the first minute of the game.

The Strykers continued to put shots on the board throughout the first quarter but were ultimately unable to put anything past Sockers goalkeeper Danny Waltman.

It was not until later on in the quarter where defenseman Drew Ruggles was set up by midfielder Leonardo De Oliveira for another Sockers goal, updating the score to 2-0.

"They're a top team," Obasi said. "They're probably the most all-star heavy team and they play like it, with so much confidence."

As the second quarter kicked off, the Strykers had an early tripping penalty by defender Moustapha Gueye.

This led to a shootout chance for Sockers forward Kraig Chiles where he was able to put the ball past Strykers goalkeeper Brian Orozco.

The first Strykers goal came from an even strength play where defenseman Robert Palmer dished the ball to midfielder Justin Stinson, making the score 3-1.

As the quarter continued, the Sockers were able to score two more goals giving them a two goal advantage going into halftime with the score being 4-1.

Another tribute to Sesay was given during halftime with the performance of "God Bless the USA" as he stood behind the singers with his family.

A more physical third quarter really showcased the teams' rivalry.

After a goal from midfielder Sebastian Mendez assisted by goalkeeper Clayson De Lima and another just a few minutes later by forward Luiz Morales, the Strykers found themselves in a five-goal deficit.

Three quick Strykers goals brought them within two. However, the Sockers were able to score a last minute goal, ending the quarter 7-4.

The Strykers mounted an impressive comeback led by forward Abdul Mansaray's hat trick, giving them a late lead after trailing by five.

However, the Sockers refused to let up and tied the game later into the quarter to force overtime at 8-8.

> 'It's been a pleasure just to share the field with him and we're going to try and keep going to give him a good send off.'
> *—Marco Fabián, Empire Strykers midfielder*

Four minutes in, a tense Toyota Arena watched the Strykers fail to score on two great opportunities for the game sealing goal.

Even with a power play advantage, the Sockers were unable to get one past Orozco.

Despite the Strykers' furious comeback attempt, the Sockers successfully read a collapsing defense and scored the game winning goal just 30 seconds after the home team's offensive flurry.

"We have a style of play where errors can lead to goals quickly," Obasi said.

"The aim is to try and grind the team down and take over as the game wears on, which we didn't do."

With one game left in the season, the Strykers are 11-10-2 and looking to squeeze their way into the final MASL playoff spot. They face off against the Dallas Sidekicks on the road on Saturday.

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Azusa Pacific football returns, joins SCIAC

Anthony Eramya
Staff Writer

Azusa Pacific will bring back their football team in the fall of 2026 to join the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The Cougars played in Division II until the program was discontinued in 2020.

When Azusa Pacific returns it will compete in Division III.

According to APU's statement announcing the return: "The move strengthens our commitment to academic excellence, a well-rounded student experience, and championship level competition."

APU had discontinued the program five years ago because the University did not believe they could sustain funding, and decided instead to prioritize the 18 other sports that the school provided at the time.

Prior to the disappearance of the team, APU had been running their program for 55 years.

The program has produced five National Football League players including NFL Pro Bowl running back Christian Okoye.

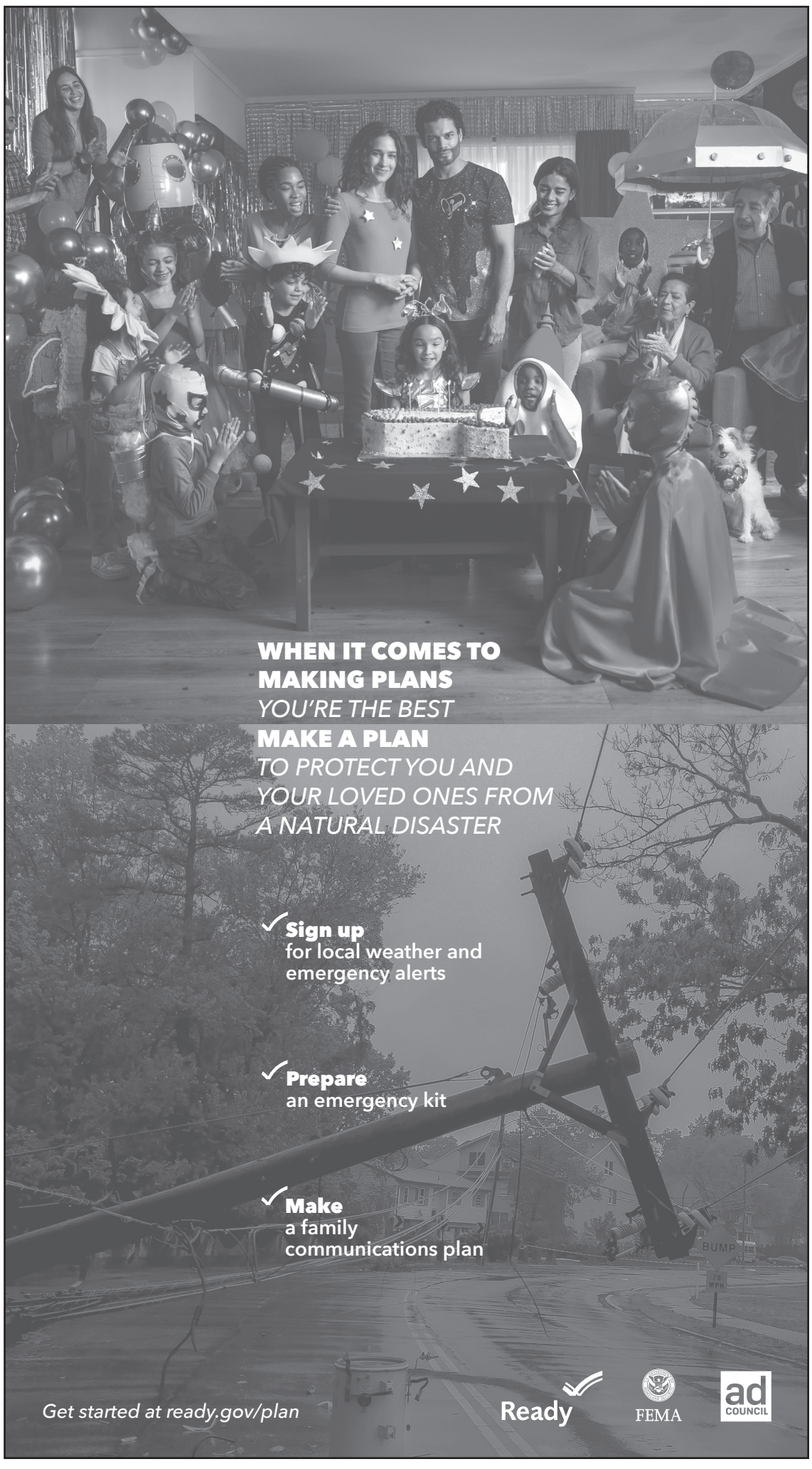
The program also produced the current head coach of the Carolina Panthers, Dave Canales, who played at APU for five years.

In 2027 there are also plans for the school to make it a focus to pursue women's flag football due to the 2028 Olympics adding the sport.

The final game APU played was an away game loss against Black Hills State to cap off a 1-9 season.

APU holds a 26-15 all-time record against La Verne with 2011 being their last meeting where the Cougars beat the Leopards, 65-14.

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Baseball ranks No. 2 after big win

Talar Sarkissian
Staff Writer



Rylee Fournier

Ryan Vosika, La Verne's junior shortstop, sprints to first base after making solid contact against the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens on Friday at Ben Hines Field. In the second inning, he delivered an RBI single through the left side. The Leopards beat Pomona-Pitzer, 10-0.

The Leopards swept Pomona-Pitzer over the weekend, including a 10-0 victory in seven innings Friday afternoon at Ben Hines field, to keep their 16-game winning streak alive and improve their record to 18-1 this season.

The wins propelled the team to a No. 2 national ranking by **d3baseball.com**, as the Leopards continued their strong start to the season after beginning ranked No. 18.

Both teams stayed scoreless through the first three innings before La Verne took control in the fourth and fifth innings.

With two outs, senior outfielder Nolan Anguiano doubled to right center.

Junior catcher Nathan Perry followed with a single, driving in Anguiano and giving La Verne a 1-0 lead. Perry advanced to third on a throwing error during the play.

"It felt really good to break that deadlock," Perry said. "I'm just glad we kept holding onto the rope, and we got a lot of guys contributing today."

La Verne's offense continued to build momentum in the fifth inning. After a walk and a bunt, the Leopards loaded the bases.

Senior first baseman Noah Garcia singled through the right side.

Senior outfielder Malachi Francois followed with a double down the left field line, taking La Verne's lead to 5-0.

"I played against their pitcher (senior Jake Hilton) in high school," Francois said. "It's always good competing against him. I just tried to stay locked in. Coach (Scott Winterburn) always tells us not to get too high or too low – just stay consistent."

La Verne scored once again after Pomona-Pitzer made a fielding error which gave Francois the chance to score, giving the Leopards a 6-0 lead at the end of the fifth.

Winterburn credited the team's focus in the fifth inning as the turning point of the game.

"(Senior center fielder Benny) Vogel drew a big walk that put pressure on them," Winterburn said. "Then Malachi's big double down the line broke it open. It was just a collection of good at-bats that got us on the board and forced them to make a pitching change."

La Verne's defense remained strong throughout the game, preventing Pomona-Pitzer from gaining any offensive momentum.

The Leopards opened a bigger gap in score in the seventh inning.

Lead off hitter Anguiano drew a walk, and Perry followed with a triple through the right side which made room for another run. Perry scored on a wild pitch, growing La Verne's lead to 8-0.

"I was behind in the count with two strikes, so I was just focused on letting the ball come to me and staying behind it," Perry said.

La Verne continued to capitalize on scoring opportunities, adding two more runs in the seventh. Garcia had his second RBI single of the game to secure the 10-0 victory.

Anguiano, who scored twice, emphasized the team's chemistry and focus as the reason behind their continued success.

"It's electric. We love each other," Anguiano said. "No one spends more time together than this team – we're out here at 7 a.m. grinding. Our biggest focus is just doing our job. Whether we're at the plate or on the mound, we ask ourselves, 'What do we need to do in this situation?' and we do it."

Winterburn praised the team's consistent defensive performance and discipline.

"Our defense has been solid all season, and today was another example," Winterburn said. "Now it's about focusing on the next game."

Roughly 100 fans were in attendance watching the game which ended by mercy rule in the seventh inning.

La Verne looks to keep the winning going against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps this weekend, starting with a 3 p.m. matchup played at Azusa Pacific, and then a doubleheader at Ben Hines Field at 11 a.m. Saturday.

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Athenas halt Leopards sweep in six innings

Fatigue gets the best of La Verne

Tati Foor
Staff Writer

The La Verne softball team secured a series victory over Claremont-Mudd-Scripps in conference play this weekend, despite losing the final game of Saturday's doubleheader 11-3 in six innings at Campus West in front of 164 fans.

After winning 2-1 at Claremont on Friday and 3-1 in the first game of the doubleheader, the Leopards struggled to maintain momentum in the final game against the Athenas.

CMS jumped out to an early lead, scoring four runs in the first inning.

The Leopards responded with a run in the bottom of the first when senior left fielder Angelina Alderete scored on senior designated player Alyssa Campbell's sacrifice fly, but then the Athenas continued their strong offense with four more runs in the second inning.

"I think we got a little complacent," head coach Danielle Kaminaka said. "We had two great games, and I think there was a bit of fatigue. We let the game happen to us instead of making things happen in the game."

The Leopards struggled against CMS sophomore pitcher Ella Yerkes, who earned the win after allowing three runs on four hits throughout four innings.

La Verne's senior starting pitcher Kirstin Sanchez took the loss, giving up eight runs in 1.1 innings.

Junior pitcher Jaidynn Alvarez gave her team 4.1 innings of relief on the mound, allowing three runs with only one earned, and eight hits.

Despite the tough game situation, Alvarez maintained a positive attitude throughout her performance.

"I was just trying to stay focused on my team and just get the job done, considering we had a rough few innings," Alvarez said.

"I just wanted to go in there and give us a fresh start."

"Jaidynn worked her butt off," Kaminaka said. "She's someone who we rely on to come behind a starter regularly, so she spends every game in the bullpen getting ready for that job, and today she came in and did a great job at that."

The Leopards came into the bottom of the fifth inning down 9-1, but then were able to get two more runs on the board to make it 9-3 and to continue the game.

Alderete had an RBI single, followed by senior center fielder Ashley Rodriguez's sacrifice fly.

CMS responded with two more runs in the sixth to put the game to an end.

"I think our mental preparation was probably the biggest thing," Rodriguez said. "Our coaches talked about it after the game. We weren't mentally prepared to step into this game to win it. We have the ability to win three in a row, but I think where we were slacking the most was our preparedness mentally."

Freshman shortstop Mackenzie Johnson acknowledged the need to make adjustments against the CMS pitchers.

"Adjusting was our biggest challenge," Johnson said. "Their starter was getting us on our timing, so we used our timing swing tools that we had."

"We have to want the third one more than the first two," Kaminaka said. "I don't think it was a conscious settling and being happy with the first two. However, there was also not a conscious 'we want this one more than the last two.' That change needs to happen."

The Leopards followed the loss with a doubleheader sweep of Whitworth on Monday, 6-1 and 8-0. But they were swept by St. Olaf in a Wednesday doubleheader, 9-3 and 11-3.

Their record sits at 11-8 overall and 3-2 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The Leopards return to Campus West on Saturday for a non-conference doubleheader matchup against Linfield at 1:30 p.m.

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Sitanggan supports women's sports

Zachary Grech
Calendar Editor



Emily Casillas

Barbara Sitanggan is Adidas's assistant brand marketing manager and an assistant coach for the La Verne women's basketball team. She believes women's basketball marketing will see significant development, and that the expansion of women's sports is evidence of the resilience of female athletes and the group's determination to dismantle obstacles.

From Pepperdine to La Verne to Adidas, assistant women's basketball coach Barbara Sitanggan is working to help inspire the next generation of women's basketball players.

Sitanggan was a former Division I standout player for Pepperdine.

There she played point guard and started all four years of her collegiate career.

Her outstanding court vision and passing ability allowed her to become the school's all-time leader in assists with 503 and free throw shooting percentage at 83.1%.

"I think it is such an honor, I don't think that record has been broken in a long time, and for them to honor my senior year and kind of just pass the torch over," Sitanggan said.

"It kind of extends more into just life, too, because I love assisting people."

After her stellar career at Pepperdine, Sitanggan began coaching at La Verne in 2023.

Coach Anthony Mason brought her on staff as an assistant.

Sitanggan has also worked, since 2021, full-time in the brand marketing department for Adidas.

She credits Mason with allowing her to find a voice with the players.

Also expanding her knowledge of the game through seeing it from a coaching perspective rather than a player's perspective.

"How he sees the game is something I admire. He sees it three plays ahead, and that is something I wish I could do," Sitanggan said.

Mason highlighted the way Sitanggan is knowledgeable when it comes to the game and how she is very open to answering questions about her game to the players.

"I mean on the court, it's her knowledge that helps the team with experience, and they get to learn from an experienced point guard who was elite when she played," Mason said.

"Also, I think off the court her experience of marketing in the business world simply gives great advice to kids who are looking for it, and her wisdom on and off the court helps benefit us."

Sitanggan's extensive playing background has helped the Leopards to prepare for each game.

Her players appreciate the attitude she brings to the team and how her positive attitude has rubbed off on them individually.

"She always reminds us to be in the moment, trusting the process and like having fun by enjoying the sport you fell in love with when you were a little girl," Fiyona Haile, sophomore forward, said.

Another area the players respect Sitanggan's approach to the game is her detailed process when it comes to reading opposing defenses.

Creating space on the floor, attacking the paint, and when to make the extra pass to find the open teammate to score.

"She has such an intricate way of giving advice, especially when it comes to talking to point guards and how to use specific moves to create more space, and when to drive into the lane, kick it to that wide-open teammate," Kim Leon, senior point guard and student manager, said.

As she continues to inspire many of the future generations of players on the court, she also helps the overall growth of the sport of women's basketball through her background in branding.

At Adidas, her daily role for the company sheds light on women in the sport of basketball.

As a team player, she is always finding ways to collaborate with others.

She uses her voice on the social media side of branding with the younger generations by trying to find the future athletes who enjoy the sport of women's basketball.

This includes working with the Hoop York City initiative to give women and girls more opportunities to play recreational basketball.

"We are all about getting the results we want, like we put a lot of stuff out there in the social world, like on Instagram," Sitanggan said.

"We want to make sure we are on the same page with our consumers and our sponsored athletes, and ultimately, always trying to find more ways to connect with the younger generation of athletes who love the sport of basketball."

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LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Baseball, March 21
La Verne- 10
Pomona Pitzer- 0

Softball, March 21
La Verne- 2
Claremont Mudd-Scripps- 1

Softball, March 22
G1: La Verne - 3
Claremont Mudd-Scripps - 1
G2: Claremont Mudd-Scripps- 11
La Verne- 3

Baseball, March 22
G1:La Verne - 6
Pomona-Pitzer - 3
G2: La Verne- 7
Pomona-Pitzer - 2

SCHEDULE

Friday
Baseball at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps @ Azusa Pacific University, 3 p.m.

Saturday
Men's and women's track and field SCIAC Quad Cup No. 2 @ Whittier, all-day
Baseball vs. Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 11 a.m.
Softball vs. Linfield, 1:30 p.m.
Baseball vs. Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 2 p.m.
Softball vs. Linfield, 3:30 p.m.

Monday
Softball vs. Williams, 3 p.m.
Softball vs. Williams, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL STANDINGS

	SCIAC	Overall
Redlands	5-1	18-4
Cal Lutheran	4-1	12-2
Chapman	2-1	13-2
Pomona-Pitzer	4-2	13-5
Claremont-MS	4-2	10-5
La Verne	**3-2**	**11-6**
Whittier	1-5	11-9
Occidental	0-9	5-18