Campus Times

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Lecture brings power of belonging

Marina Bravo
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, students from diverse backgrounds gathered together in the Ludwick Center classroom to discuss the idea of belongingness.

This week's discussion focused on racial identity and racism.

Daniel Loera, director of multicultural services, introduced the history of where the idea of race originated from, and how it changed through the development of colonialism.

He also talked about how that began to impact many communities and the way they viewed each other.

Loera provided a 10-minute video to introduce this concept and then discussed his personal experience on navigating his own identity and race, and encouraging others to do the same.

He emphasizing that the classroom was a safe space for all and that veryone was reminded of the importance of respect, patience, cultural sensitivity, open mindedness and belonging.

Splitting the total 20 attendees into two groups, students were able to introduce themselves, share their experiences growing up and how their identities affected them being a part of a community.

As students opened up about themes of diverse communities, culture shocks, assimilation and experiencing colorism, they were able to connect with one another.

Realizing how similar their stories and experiences were irregardless of having a different cultural background.

Some of these students being complete strangers to each other, began to relate to one another in this space and found similarities in their stories. Finding that sense of belonging.

Senior sociology major, Malcolm Jones opened up about how he had faced his own obstacles in his life growing up and how he never realized how similar the experiences of his peers at the lecture were to his own.

"Conversations like this one are eye opening," Jones said.

Jones expressed how him coming to the lecture brought him a sense of belonging because of this shared similar experience.

The open space allowed many Hispanic identifying students to come forward to speak on their experiences and the common division in specifically Mexican culture.

They were able to find a common ground on the question of: "Am I Mexican enough?" – connecting through the need to assimilate to their environment in order to survive, then rediscovering and owning what their identities meant to them even when they had become isolated from their own.

At the start, the group did not even know each other's names but were able to find community within their stories and connect through their differences.

"The want to assimilate takes us away from the community," junior child development major, Paloma Lara said. "Through this, I am reminded how common division in specifically Mexican culture.

They were able to find a common ground on the question of: "Am I Mexican enough?" – connecting through the need to assimilate to their environment in order to survive, then rediscovering and owning what their identities meant to them even when they had become isolated from their own.

At the start, the group did not even know each other's names but were able to find community within their stories and connect through their differences.

"The want to assimilate takes us away from the community," junior child development major, Paloma Lara said. "Through this, I am reminded how community is important."

Students also reflected on the opportunities this lecture had opened for them. This lecture created a safe space for everyone to come together and create a community. Something that not many are able to have.

Something that can be a struggle to find with today's circumstances but something that can be present and found at the University of La Verne.

"It is a privilege to have our own time to educate ourselves," Sophia Santana, junior biology major said.

"[This space…] makes me feel like I belong here in higher education," Lara said.

Director for Cultural Programming and Black Student Services Alesha Knox was an attendee at the event, as well as one of the organizers of the lecture series.

"I'm here to learn," Knox said. "I can't provide a space unless I learn."

She expressed how important it is for her to continuously learn to be able to provide these safe spaces for the students at ULV.

This lecture was the sixth session of the Belongingness spring series. Loera encourages attendees to return for their seventh and final session on April 16.

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Olivia Russo

Sophie Santana, junior biology major, speaks about her connection to her culture in a small discussion group at the weekly Belongingness Lecture on Wednesday in the Ludwick Center. This week's event was titled "Racial Identity and Racism."

Congresswoman shares legacy

Karina Rodriguez
Arts Editor

The Wilson Library, in collaboration with the Harris Gallery and the University government relations office, held the "Discover the Legacy of Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano" reception featuring the recently retired congresswoman's talk and a display of archives of her career.

The event Wednesday in the Harris Gallery was designed to honor the democratic congresswoman's 25-years in Congress through memorabilia and documents. Napolitano, whose district included the city of La Verne, served in Congress from 1999 to 2024.

Approximately 70 members of the University of La Verne community attended the event, set against a backdrop of memorabilia of Napolitano's accomplishments in Congress, which were hung on the gallery wall.

The display, including awards, signed legislation, a map of her 31st Congressional District with pins from her campaign days, photos and more will hang in the gallery through May 1.

Also on display was a boxing belt from the World Boxing Council; Rep. Napolitano has teamed up with athletes to advocate for mental health.

The Wednesday event began with a Q&A session, for which pre-selected students were allowed to ask Napolitano a few questions.

The questions were both biographical and political, including such topics as Immigration and how to navigate the current political climate.

Napolitano urged the audience to participate in the democratic process on the local level.

"Get involved in meetings," Napolitano said. "Learn how your school boards operate, your University, your state, your federal government because it affects everything you do.

"The current administration is doing everything illegally … and we can't allow it to happen," Napolitano added.

Napolitano has been an advocate for University programs, including helping the University get a $2.2 million grant for the Institute of Mental Health and Psychological Wellbeing.

University of La Verne President Risa Dickson, who attended the reception, said the event was important for students.

"It's their history," Dickson said. "It's the history of the state of California, and she has,

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On the Cover

Organist Alan Morrison performs on the Glatter-Göetz/ Rosales Organ at the Claremont United Church of Christ on March 30. This organ is one of two of the biggest organs in California, along with the one at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. / photo by Vicente Rodriguez

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Pollock remembered as larger than life

Professor visited 38 countries

Zachary Grech
Assistant Editor

Emeritus professor of communications Don Pollock, who headed the broadcasting program in the department of communications for almost 30 years, died on March 24 at the age of 71.

Professor Pollock's colleagues and former students remember him as a storyteller, an inspiring mentor and an excellent filmmaker who cared for his students, many of whom work in the film and television industries in Hollywood and beyond.

Professor Pollock, who taught at the University from 1991 to 2019, also created partnerships with the cities of La Verne and San Dimas, running and staffing LVTV, which provides content for the cities' public access stations.

"It takes a talented person to build a curriculum for our department, to what we have today," said Shane Rodrigues, broadcast operations manager for the communications department, who worked with Professor Pollock for most of his tenure at the University.

"And I think the legacy that he leaves since I first got here in 1992, shows how his vision came to life."

Professor Pollock's colleagues say one of his greatest gifts was how he connected with people.

"He was a great storyteller, who could sit with anybody and just really connect with them on the human level, and make them feel like they mattered," said Jonathan Reed, professor of philosophy and religion.

Claudia Gonzalez, one of Professor Pollock's students who currently works for LVTV, remembers how he would sit with her until she got it.

"I remember a time when he gave me feedback on one of my videos, and instead of just giving me the feedback, he worked on editing the piece together, which ended up taking many hours to finish," Gonzalez said.

Professor Pollock would advise people to always aim to reach their fullest potential and live their best lives, his colleagues said. One way Professor Pollock modeled this in his own life was through travel about which he was passionate.

He headed January term study trips to the Amazon Rainforest, Costa Rica, Cuba and Hawaii. George Keeler, professor of journalism and communications program chair, accompanied Professor Pollock on some of these adventures.

"Don was always first to grab a banana breakfast and board a small excursion boat called the Tucano, where he would have a fishing pole in hand to catch and release piranhas," Keeler said.

Professor Pollock traveled to more than 38 countries. And he shared new ideas and perspectives to the classroom, inspiring his students to chase adventure, his colleagues said.

Zachary Grech can be reached at ***zachary.grech@laverne.edu***.



file photo by Danielle De Luna

Professor of Communications Emeritus Don Pollock delivers his last faculty lecture in 2019. Pollock, who died March 24, was instrumental in the growth of the University of La Verne's television broadcasting and film programs, and established the University's partnership with the city of La Verne to operate their public access television station, LVTV.

Legacy...

Continued from page 2

in part, set the trajectory," Dickson said.

Senior political science major Joseph Montes, who attended the event, was delighted to meet the former Congresswoman.

"To speak with an actual representative (was) something I couldn't imagine in my wildest dreams," Montes said. "Advocacy has always been on my mind and perhaps one day I'll be able to do the good work like Representative Napolitano."

Zuhey Espinoza, associate vice president and chief government relations officer, said the University was honored to host the congresswoman's archives.

"Because of the good relationship that we built with the Congresswoman, she decided to honor us with donating her legislative archives," Espinoza said.

During her career in Congress, Napolitano was a pioneer in shaping policies for areas such as natural resources, mental health, public transportation, and the concerns of the Latino community.

The Harris Gallery is located in the Landis Academic Center, adjacent to the Wilson Library.

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Dental care reviewed in study presentation

Astrid Keel, professor of marketing, presented a lecture on her research on dentistry titled, "Understanding Patients Dental Care Satisfaction Through Depth Interviews."

About 10 community members attended the Tuesday event in person in the Lewis Center classroom, with a handful joining on Zoom.

"Dentistry has become like skin care," Keel said. "A lot of it is about selling these teeth whitening products or looking like these celebrities who drill their teeth down to get veneers. This is not good for you."

Keel's research consisted of interviews with 22 people, ages 19 to 79. The subjects had to have gone to the dentist within the last five years.

The study focused on two main things: patients' past experience with dental services and what their insurance covered.

"Understanding patient satisfaction is essential," Keel said. "And public perception has a direct impact on how people are going to feel after treatment."

Keel said dental service is hard for patients to evaluate on their own, and the American system for evaluating dental care is outdated, whereas other countries have more up-to-date ways to evaluate.

"There are a lot of similar things that get measured differently," Keel said.

The study subjects who reported satisfaction with their care tended to be those whose care was relatively pain free. Keel emphasized the importance of dental care to overall health.

"I learn so much from these seminars," Nathan Garcia, senior sociology major, said.

—Anthony Eramya

Lecturer speaks on finding inner peace

Lucero Rojo, assistant vice president of alumni engagement, shared her experience as part of the "What Matters to Me and Why" lecture series on March 27.

About 30 community members attended the event in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space.

University Chaplain Zandra Wagoner introduced Rojo as a proud alumna who "lights up the room."

Rojo presented a slide show that included favorite quotes.

She talked about inner peace, hope and mindful engagement with the world.

"When I was thinking of cultivating peace it was simple," Rojo said. "You are nurturing something, helping it grow. You're building it to be something hopefully beautiful and strong," Rojo said.

"I am not there yet," Rojo added. "I'm still thinking of internal peace and how to work through that. How do I build that in my life?"

Rojo's talk was raw and emotional at times.

She said she felt alone as a child. But she wasn't alone, she said, and was able to find amazing people to grow with.

She ended the talk by telling the audience that she wants to continue to grow.

"I really appreciate that she talked candidly," said Alesha Knox, director of cultural programming and Black student services, and one of the event coordinators. "I appreciated her vulnerability."

The "What Matters to Me and Why" talk will be at 1 p.m. April 17 featuring speaker Michele Assael-Shafia, assistant professor of law.

—CC Flaherty

Students trace African religious roots

Talar Sarkissian
Staff Writer

The African Student Association, Interfaith Fellows and Common Ground organization educated students about traditional African religion Wednesday in the Quay Davis Executive Boardroom.

The event centered around the spiritual practices across Africa, focusing on pre-Colonial belief systems and their impact.

Around 25 students attended the event, which was decorated with African flags representing countries such as South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Traditional African foods like Puff Puff, fried plantain and Chi Chi were available, helping to immerse the students in the culture.

"This is a collaboration between ASA and Interfaith/Common Ground, and it's our first time hosting an event like this," Cherie Atalor, a junior computer science major and the ASA president, said. "We wanted to give people the opportunity to experience Africa authentically and highlight what existed before colonialism."

The presentation broke down traditional belief systems by region; North, West, East, Central and Southern Africa.

The topics discussed were ancestor worship, animism, oral traditions, nature based spirituality and community rituals.

"I'm African American, and I wanted to learn more about what my ancestors might've practiced," Naomi Keets, a sophomore psychology major, said. "Events like this help build community and offer knowledge we wouldn't get in class."

Students learned about spiritual practices from groups like the Yoruba, the Dogon, the Zulu, the Kikuyu and the Amazigh.

"I actually practice Yoruba, which is a Nigerian spiritual tradition," Kira Annis, a senior biology major, said. "I came because I wanted to learn about other African religions. I know a lot about Nigerian spirituality, but not much about practices from other parts of the continent."

> 'There are practices I grew up with that I didn't realize could be traced back to African spirituality.'
> *—Savannah Lindsey, sophomore psychology major*

The event explained how African religions blended with Christianity over time and are still practiced today. Beliefs like Vodou, Santería and Candomblé continue to reflect African roots.

"There are practices I grew up with that I didn't realize could be traced back to African spirituality," Savannah Lindsey, a sophomore psychology major, said. "Even if we don't always know where they come from, I think they've been passed down in ways we don't always recognize."

"These religions carry on in many forms," Atolor said. "Whether through rituals, ceremonies, music, dance or storytelling they're part of our past and our present."

The event emphasized the mission of both ASA and Interfaith/Common Ground to create spaces that promote cultural awareness, diversity and interfaith dialogue on campus.

"We want people to know ASA is here," Atolor said. "We're here to help students experience Africa in a real and honest way, and we hope events like this inspire more people to embrace their history and culture."

The event ended with students having the opportunity to socialize and connect with one another and creating a welcoming environment where students felt comfortable sharing their personal connections to their own religions and spiritual backgrounds.

"It's rare to find spaces on campus where we can talk about religion and culture without judgment," Keets said. "This felt like a space for us."

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Commentary

Need to know where to go? Here are my suggestions



Ethan Anderson

More than 60% of University of La Verne students commute to campus, which means a lot of bathroom use outside of the dorms. Daily commuters make an important decision about where to answer nature's call.

I set out to find the best bathrooms on campus to direct commuters in their choices.

There are a few factors that go into what makes a bathroom great. Privacy, foot traffic, cleanliness and the availability of feminine products are among the factors to consider.

Many students appreciate the facilities in Campus Center and the Ludwick Center. These modern, environmentally friendly buildings have bathrooms that offer the same vibe. They are generally very clean and well lit.

The second floor of the Campus Center also offers a private breastfeeding room adjacent to the women's restroom for nursing moms. This room is small and dimly lit with a sofa and a door that locks from the inside.

A great place to do your business in private are the gender neutral bathrooms across campus. A majority of buildings on campus have gender neutral bathrooms besides Leo Hall, and the Barkley Building. These are all single-person bathrooms that lock, making it a safe place for anyone and everyone to take care of their business.

My personal favorite is the bathroom located in the music annex on Third Street just north of the Wilson Library. It is a gender neutral bathroom for one, and locks like the rest of them. If you are lucky, you will even get the ethereal experience of hearing the sweet sounds of Beethoven or Mozart, when you go.

The Arts and Communications Building's bathrooms are among those on campus which don't offer feminine hygiene products. Miller Hall bathrooms also do not offer period products. Founders Hall and Wilson Library generally do, though they sometimes run out.

The older buildings on campus like Founder's and Miller Hall bathrooms provide a more secluded, and a typically more private experience than some of the more modern buildings.

Shy poopers like myself are not fond of bathrooms with a lot of foot traffic.

Both Founders Hall and Miller Hall also offer gender neutral facilities.

But University lore about these buildings being haunted, creaky stall doors and all, may create a rather unsettling experience when you use these bathrooms. Though these bathrooms are generally uncrowded, so serviceable if you are in a rush.

For a most pleasant and clean experience, go to the first floor of the Ludwick Center, where both men's and women's bathrooms have bidets for a royal rinse hard to come by on this continent.

If you are a commuter in search of the best place to go, I hope this information will serve you.

Ethan Anderson is a senior communications major and the LV Life editor for the Campus Times. He can be reached at ***ethan.anderson@laverne.edu.***



Rylee Fournier

The restrooms in the Ludwick Center include ablution stations. These include a washbasin and other facilities for the cleansing ritual in Islam, which involves washing certain parts of the body before prayer.

Happenings

Big Sean

The annual Lavernapalooza concert is back at the Pomona Fox Theater, and this year's headliner is none other than rap star Big Sean. The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. on May 8.

Tickets are free for undergraduate students only, for others it is $40.

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

Dorothy Robbins

Dorothy Robbins will perform Modest Mussorgsky's epic "Pictures at an Exhibition" and a piece from Australian composer Carl Vine's 1990 piano sonata.

Robbins intends to remind the audience what the primary musical styles were in the 20th century. The concert will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday in Drinkward Recital at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont.

Admission is free.

For more information, visit **arts.hmc.edu/Dorothy-Robbins-Spring-2025**.

Early Music Ensemble

The Harvey Mudd Early Music Ensemble will host a concert featuring European Middle Ages and Renaissance music.

The concert will be at 7 p.m. April 20 in Drinkward Recital Hall on the Harvey Mudd College campus in Claremont.

Admission is free. For more information, visit **arts.hmc.edu/HMC-Early-Music-Ensemble-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 runs until June 29.

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

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

—Zachary Grech

Gallery talk challenges

Digital media

by Tati Foor

photography by Rylee Fournier

Visitors gathered at the Benton Museum of Art on April 4 for a presentation on "The Thing Quarterly," an object-based subscription service that ran from 2007 to 2017.

Every Friday the Benton hosts 20-minute informal talks followed by Q&A on current exhibitions featuring artists, curators, students, faculty and staff who bring their unique viewpoints to the works on display.

"The Thing Quarterly" exhibition stands as its own separate showcase within the museum, featuring displays on tables and along walls that reveal the content of the art-filled subscription boxes.

The subscription service was founded by John Herschend and Will Rogan, and was aimed to democratize art by giving an affordable entry into the art world.

Rather than creating traditional gallery pieces, the artists focused on objects meant to be integrated into subscribers' everyday lives.

"I think I like that it has a lot of humor to it," museum ambassador Addy Laforge said. "It really does throw people off to come to an art museum and then just see a soccer ball on a table. It's always interesting to see a merging between arts and just objects."

The exhibition displays all 34 issues released over the project's decade-long run. Each issue featured a different artist who created a functional object that doubled as art.



Clark Louis, a junior art history and Japanese major at Pitzer College, leads the gallery talk on the "One Last Thing Again" exhibit at the Benton Museum in Claremont. He organizes weekly talks at the gallery to engage the Claremont community and surrounding colleges with the museum's exhibitions.

These range from a dramatic onion cutting board by Starlee Kine to a 24-hour clock by Susan O'Malley, and even a shower curtain with text by Dave Eggers intended to be read while showering.

One particularly striking piece was a soccer ball designed by artist Michelle Grabner.

"It's a usable soccer ball with designs on all the white panels," gallery talk presenter and Benton intern Clark Louis said. "This was her response to a review of one of her shows at a gallery in New York, where Ken Johnson, in 2014, wrote a review of her work and called it 'the work of a boring soccer mom."

The concept behind "The Thing Quarterly" was partly a reaction to increasing digital media in 2007.

"John and Will were sort of scared that all media was just going to go digital," Louis said. "The purpose of the project was also to sort of innovate on what a recurring publication could be."

Louis noted that visitors should not miss putting themselves in the shoes of early subscribers.

"Not coming in and seeing the soccer ball in a museum," Louis said. "But like, getting the box on your front porch and opening it and being like 'What is this?' That surprise aspect and having to figure out things for yourself was super important to John and Will's vision."

Visitors interested in learning more about "The Thing Quarterly" will have an opportunity to meet founders John Herschend and Will Rogan, along with some of the contributing artists, at the museum Friday.

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

Organ concert features rich history

Alicia Naranjo
Staff Writer

Organist Alan Morrison hosted a concert in conjunction with the Claremont United Church of Christ Organ Committee to highlight his skill and discuss his journey with the organ.

The concert March 30 at the Claremont United Church of Christ. What makes the organ at Claremont United Church of Christ special is the 64-foot pipe that was installed in the church years after it was built and placed.

The organ used was built by the German company Glatter-Göetz Orgelbau and was installed in 1997 with a total of 4,041 pipes, bringing lots of energetic sounds throughout the church.

Alan Morrison, the featured organist, started by playing the piano at the age of 4. When he turned 17, he was introduced to the organ and has played it ever since.

"The keys are in the same place, but our action is very different from a piano, and we have coordination, and the technique is different," Morrison said.

To start off the concert, Morrison played Prelude & Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548, by Johann Sebastian Bach, a composer who was born in 1685, making him the oldest composer in the list, and gave a strong start with a classic historical piece.

For the last piece, Morrison played a short work by his former teacher John Weaver.

This symphony had different elements of the song "When the Saints Go Marching In."

In total, Morrison played eight songs composed by J.S. Bach, William Grant Still, Florence Price, Leo Swoerby, Jonathan Dove, Amy Beach, Rachel Laurin, and his former teacher, John Weaver.

Alan Morrison has performed many concerts throughout North America, South America, and Europe.

He even did some touring with his mother, pianist Jeannine Morrison.

"Some of us are organists, and we keep track of who is playing, and we deal with some professional agencies," Susan Achuff, chair of the Claremont United Church of Christ Organ committee said.

The Claremont United Church of Christ Organ Committee hosts about two organ concerts a year.

"Word of mouth and social media work as well as keeping in touch with the organ world," Tyler Zimmerman, member of the Claremont United Church of Christ Organ Committee said.

The creator of this organ is also the creator of the famed Walt Disney Concert Hall organ in Los Angeles.

When first entering the church for the organ concert, people were greeted by the members of the Claremont United Church of Christ Organ Committee. There, they showed their ticket and were granted access. The organ decorated the room, taking a whole wall with its many silver polished pipes.

In the back of the room and to the side of the organ were cameras to get close visuals of the technique used to play this complicated instrument.

At the end of the concert, everyone had a chance to speak to Alan Morrison and were treated with a variety of cookies from chocolate chip to peanut butter cookies. There was also a table to self-serve coffee, tea, and water.

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Art Walk includes treasure hunt-style activity

Margaret Contreras
Editor-in-Chief

Art lovers walked through the streets Saturday for the monthly Claremont Art Walk. Local galleries and art museums located in the Claremont Village offered maps to help locate the exhibitions throughout the town.

There were seven locations and each location offered refreshments for visitors.

Depending on the location; they offered water, fruits and cookies. Two of the seven locations had wine for guests 21 and over.

A few of the locations also had jewelry on sale that were made by local vendors. A majority of the art work in the local galleries were available for purchase. The prices varied due to the size of the work, the type of medium and the materials used.

In the Pomona Valley Art Association, located on First Street, photographer Corey Byers showed his artwork and answered questions that visitors might have.

"Each artist picks what they want to show," Byers said. "It does depend on the size, the type of medium and the space we pay for."

The Pomona Valley Art Association rotates the artwork every four months. Originally the Pomona Valley Art Association had their location in the Montclair Place on the second floor.

Placed outside of the Pomona Valley Art Association, potter Noe Reyes was selling his artwork.

"We were in that mall for a while, about 10 to 15 years," Reyes said. "We have some people come in here who say they used to remember our previous location."

The mapped out locations gave art lovers a chance to discover the small galleries that are around downtown Claremont. Visitors also had a chance to enter a raffle for $100 by visiting each location and getting 15 stamps on the passport cards that were available at any of the participating galleries.

As the night wore on, some of the galleries were full, to where it was difficult to walk through. Some spectators would move from one gallery, if they saw it was too crowded they would return after viewing another gallery. There was live music in front of the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art located on First Street. The exhibition was based on the art of musical instruments. With actual instruments throughout the museum, some of them historical drums and some used in statues.

The Benton Museum of Art, located on Bonita Avenue, had multiple exhibitions from various artists that included "Jonathan Lethem's Parallel Play: Contemporary Art and Art Writing, Black Ecologies and Doubles," a collection from the museum itself and Ian White.

"Every semester we rotated the art work," visitor services coordinator Maddy Woodward said. "We stick with the academic calendar of the college."

With the Benton Museum of Art following the academic calendar they are not open during the art walks during the summer and winter after classes are out for the semester.

"We have a variety of artists here, some local, like Los Angeles or here in Claremont," Woodward said. "We also have some out of state."

Artist Juan Throp had his "Fugitive" series in Studio C, located on Bonita Avenue. The bright colors and graffiti inspired art was hung on each wall of the studio.

"It started out as doodles," Throp said. "This particular project took me five years to finish. And the frames you see on the art were found when I go thrifting. I made the art to fit the frame when usually artists look for the frame to fit the art."

The art walk is held every first Saturday of the month in the downtown Claremont Village, from 6 to 9 p.m.

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Eclipse Quartet delivers impactful, emotional concert

Monique Arambula
Staff Writer

The Eclipse Quartet delivered a deeply emotional concert for an audience of about 60 people March 30 in the Harvey Mudd College's Drinkward Recital Hall.

The performers – Sara Parkins and Sarah Thornblade on violin, Alma Lisa Fernandez on viola and Maggie Parkins on cello – did a fantastic job conveying emotion through their music.

"It's a symbiotic thing that happens between us. You feel the energy, and you kind of play off each other," Grammy Award-winning violinist Sara Parkins said. "You need the audience just as much as they come to hear us play."

The performance took place in a dimly lit recital hall, with the musicians positioned in the front.

The atmosphere was intimate, with the audience sitting close to the musicians, making it feel more personal.

Throughout the evening, the audience remained quiet and extremely focused, listening attentively.

The connection between the quartet and the music was evident, and their expressive playing brought attention to the emotion behind each composition.

The acoustics of the recital hall enhanced the sound, making small moments more intense and impactful throughout the space.

"I started playing the violin when I was 6, but switched to viola around 12 or 13 because it was a free class offered at school," Fernandez said. "I really enjoyed the sound of the instrument, even though it took time to adjust."

Fernandez also said that the group is sharing its 20th anniversary and typically performs in Claremont once or twice a year due to members' connection to the area.

The program of the night featured a wide range of contemporary compositions, including the world premiere of "Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer" by Howard Frazin, a piece that moved through the seasons with shifting moods and tones.

The group also played the world premiere of "Wild Geometry" by Bill Alves, a fast and exciting piece that had lots of surprising sounds. Other pieces included "All Ashore" by Sarah Gibson, and the West Coast premieres of "Hollow Flame" and "In Whose Mouth, the Stars" by Akshaya Avril Tucker.

Each piece showed a different feeling and style, and the performers brought them to life with energy and emotion. The music choices showed how the Eclipse Quartet supports living composers and wants to share new music with their audience.

"I've been to at least 10 or 12 of their concerts, maybe four or five times here," loyal attendee Aaron Kenyon said. "The compositions they choose are rhythmically adventurous, and every time I see them play, I leave with inspiration."

Maggie Parkins and Fernandez both teach at Pomona College, which strengthens their connection to the community.

Additionally, Maggie and Sara Parkins are twin sisters, adding familiarity within the group.

By the end of the performance, the audience was visibly moved, some staying to chat with the musicians.

The Eclipse Quartet's ability to blend technical precision with emotional depth showcased their dedication to their craft and to keeping contemporary chamber music alive.

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Winterburn gets 600th career win

Talar Sarkissian
Staff Writer



Ethan Anderson

Junior second baseman Aaron Whobrey turns away from being hit by a pitch against Caltech on April 4 at Ben Hines Field. The Leopards were walked or hit by pitch 11 times by Caltech pitching in the game, which they won, 16-3.

La Verne beat Caltech, 16–3, on April 4 at Ben Hines Field after coming back from a 3–0 deficit early on in the game. There were 50 people in attendance. The win marked head coach Scott Winterburn's 600th career victory.

Caltech started strong in the top of the first. Their opening batter, freshman first baseman Quinn Hartman, reached second on a hit.

Senior center fielder Jack Fishel followed with a triple, driving in Hartman for the game's first run.

La Verne's starting pitcher, senior Ethan Galindo, struck out the next batter, but Caltech continued to put runs on the board. A hit to left field allowed another run, giving Caltech a 3–0 lead heading into the bottom of the inning.

La Verne responded quickly. Senior center fielder Benny Vogel had a hit, followed by a right-side single from senior first baseman Noah Garcia. While the Leopards didn't score in the first, their energy at the plate showed they were ready to turn the game around.

The momentum shifted in the bottom of the second. Senior third baseman Jason Givens walked to start the inning. Senior right fielder Logan Reese followed with a hit to left, sending Givens to third and putting himself on second.

Senior catcher Matt Rice hit a sacrifice fly, scoring Givens and putting La Verne on the board. With the bases loaded shortly after, junior shortstop Ryan Vosika hit a double to left center, tying the game at 2–2.

"That inning gave us a chance to breathe," Winterburn said. "We scored a couple, the guys relaxed, and then everything started clicking. We kept scoring and didn't let up."

The bottom of the third was where the Leopards took full control.

They started off with a ground-rule double from Vogel. From there, their offense didn't let up. Walks, wild pitches, and contact led to multiple runs.

"Even though it's spring break, we've been working in the cages all week," Vogel said. "We knew Caltech was gonna score, but we stuck to our plan and did what we needed to do."

Senior left fielder Nolan Anguiano hit a triple to right, clearing the bases. A few batters later, Rice followed with another triple, adding two more runs.

By the end of the inning, La Verne had scored 10 runs. The score was 14–2 after three innings.

"Our coaches are always in our ear about being patient. That's helped me a lot," Garcia said. "Our lineup feeds off each other — if someone doesn't come through, someone else will. That's just how we are. It takes the pressure off and makes the game fun."

In the fourth, La Verne added two more runs. Reese set the tone with a deep hit, bringing home Givens and Anguiano to take the lead to 16–2. Caltech scored once in the sixth, but the Leopards had control of the game through the final innings.

"We just stayed in our process and played Leo baseball," Reese said.

Following the win, the Leopards record improved to 19–3 for the season.

After the final out, the team celebrated by dumping Gatorade on Winterburn in recognition of his career milestone.

"I don't really think about it too much," Winterburn said. "I just try to coach the next game. But hitting 600 means we've had a lot of good players, good coaches and a great staff over the years. That's what really matters to me."

La Verne carried that same momentum through the weekend.

The team swept both games of Saturday's doubleheader at Caltech, 10-0 and 8-2.

"It felt good to bounce back after last weekend," Vogel said. "We just want to stack wins and keep bringing the same energy every time we hit the field."

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Leopards bring win despite fluctuating energy

Leila El Sabbagh
Sports Editor

Leopards softball snuck away with a win against the Occidental Tigers, 3-2, on April 4 at Campus West. This game kicked off the Leopards' weekend conference series against the Tigers, where they won two games out of three.

The bottom of the first inning is where the Leopards got the ball rolling using their aggressive hitting style to get their first two runs on the board.

Senior right fielder Angelina Alderete led La Verne with a single up the middle followed by a double by senior left fielder Sydney Diaz.

"You want to go out there and do as much as you can, especially for a team that works this hard," Alderete said.

The inning continued when senior catcher Alyssa Campbell brought Alderete in for La Verne's first run.

A couple pitches later, senior center fielder Ashley Rodriguez drove in Diaz in for their second run.

The Tigers answered back during the second inning where they loaded the bases on a walk, single, and hit by pitch.

The starting pitcher for the Leopards, senior Kirstin Sanchez, was unable to stop the rally and walked Tigers' senior left fielder Sydney Crespo, which moved the runners over making the score 2-1.

However, the inning ended when Alderete completed a double play from shallow right field on a fly ball by junior shortstop Alysha Wagner.

Alderete was able to get the ball to home plate to get the final out of the inning.

Leopards freshman shortstop Mackenzie Johnson was a prominent player, making at least one play each inning to break off any Occidental momentum.

"It starts at practice," Johnson said. "I think just knowing that we have each other's backs helps. If we didn't get it done at the plate, pass it on to the next person."

The Leopards weren't done until the next inning where they scored their final run for some breathing room on an RBI by Alderete, bringing in senior designated player Cassandra Gilbert, updating the score to 3-1 La Verne.

It wasn't until the top of the fifth inning where sophomore pitcher Jada Coria was put in to close out the game.

"Mentally, I just have my confidence in knowing that my defense is behind me. I talk to them before I go out there and let them know to lay it out for me," Coria said.

A fly ball between left and center field during the fifth inning gave the Tigers their second run, making the score 3-2 La Verne.

"We were up and down, you can see that on the scoreboard. We scored early in the game and then we got a little bit quiet with the bats," head coach Danielle Kaminaka said.

"For us, we have a huge focus. Our goal is to be focused on our energy and what we're giving each other."

The Leopards will continue their Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play against the rival Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens at 3 p.m. Friday at Campus West.

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Christen Ziska

La Verne senior pitcher Kirstin Sanchez winds up during matchup against the Occidental Tigers on April 4 at Campus West. The game ended in a La Verne victory, 3-2.

Leopards keep playoff hopes alive

La Verne builds momentum

Ethan Anderson
LV Life Editor



Jai'la Counts

La Verne junior defender Kelly Long blocks Occidental freshman utility Estella Gray at the La Verne Aquatic Center on April 2. The Leopards defeated the Tigers 15-9 and followed with a 13-10 victory over Whittier on Saturday.

In windy, cloudy conditions La Verne came out on top over Occidental, 15-9, April 2 at the La Verne Aquatic Center to continue their push toward the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference playoffs.

"They wanted to win. They wanted to keep their season alive…they had a really fantastic practice this week, yesterday," interim head coach Robert Echeverria said. "Due to that; building momentum, and bringing it today."

In front of about 100 spectators the women's water polo team looked to bounce back into the win column after dropping three tough games to Chapman, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps and Cal Lutheran in March.

The Leopards entered the matchup with an overall record of 4-14, barely keeping their heads above the treacherous waters of the SCIAC.

"Every game moving from this point on is important. In order for us to solidify our spot in the top five, we gotta win all our games," Echeverria said.

The team is currently sitting in fifth place in the SCIAC with a 5-4 conference record, sandwiched between Cal Lutheran and Occidental.

Senior attacker Reiley Burton tied her career high of six goals against the Tigers and supplemented them with three assists and a drawn exclusion.

"In practice we've really been working on doing multiple drives in every front court, just so we can focus on passing the ball around and looking for the open person and being patient," Burton said.

Another key player of the game was senior utility Brianna Zapata, who played much of the match and seemed to be everywhere all the time.

Zapata had four assists and four steals, and even a goal of her own.

"These are winnable games and I know that if we go out and have fun, accepting that today is a great day to play water polo regardless," Zapata said. "I think having that mindset has really helped us out."

The Leopards came out with intensity and quickly went ahead 5-1 in the first half. The Tigers answered with four straight goals, tying the game.

Sophomore utility Gigi Gomez scored with 25 seconds left to attain the lead going into the half, 6-5.

After a halftime talk from Echeverria emphasizing patience and defense, the Leopards remained in control, growing the lead. In the last 15 minutes of the game, the Leopards outscored the Tigers, 9-4.

"We wanted to make an adjustment because they were beating us in certain areas and we wanted to clean it up," Echeverria said.

"They just kinda kept capitalizing on some calls that didn't go our way."

The next match was played Saturday morning at Whittier, where they achieved a scrappy 13-10 win, keeping their postseason dreams alive.

"Make sure we're working for the whole team, not an individual, and coming ready to win, instead of just ready to play," graduate center Olivia Taylor said about her approach and thought process.

Along with graduate center Nancy Trinh, Taylor had two goals in this game. Freshman goalkeeper Miranda Graham also had a great game, making 13 saves. Another key player of this game was Gomez who had three goals, two assists and one steal.

The Leopards continue their playoff push at Caltech's Braun Pool in Pasadena at 11 a.m. Saturday.

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D-III Day celebrates La Verne student athletes

Event highlights community

Zachary Grech
Calendar Editor

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee hosted Division III Day on Tuesday in Sneaky Park.

Over 300 people attended the event as Leo Nation T-shirts were all given away, along with free Alani energy drinks.

In-N-Out Burger catered the event.

This marked SAAC's third year hosting this event to help celebrate National Division III Week which shines the light on student athletes.

"The main goal of D-III Week and the field day event is really important to celebrate our student athletes by highlighting all their achievements they have accomplished here on campus," Madison Smith, senior libero of the women's volleyball team and SAAC president, said.

"And just give them a day to have fun by all coming together as a community,"

Throughout the event, each sport was showcased by individual booths.

It showed the camaraderie that all the athletes have for each other, as well as the sacrifice it takes to be a student athlete in higher education.

"It's a grind that requires time management and sacrifice," Devin Martin, sophomore middle linebacker of the football team, said.

"Like sacrificing going out with friends to study or recover for games/practice, and even preparing yourself to be the best version of yourself athletically,"

Martin said his favorite memory as a Division III athlete was during Homecoming week.

"It's always a great time being able to see my family, and always seeing everybody showing out for La Verne," Martin said.

"I went through the market last year with my jersey on and people were high-fiving me, giving me hugs, and taking pictures."

The event allowed the athletes to reflect on the importance of college athletics, especially in Division III, where none of the athletes are on any athletic scholarships.

"At the Division III level, everyone wants to be here and everyone chooses to be here because they either love the sport or they end up falling in love with the whole program itself," Vanessa Marquez, junior setter of the women's volleyball team, said.

"You also get the academic part, which brings a good balance to being a student athlete, which compared to other schools, they don't get the same opportunities."

A dunk tank featured coaches and student athletes from all the sports programs at La Verne, and drew a long line of people looking to make their throws to dunk friends.

"The fan favorite is the dunk tank," Smith said.

"It's fun to see our coaches and fellow Leos be dunked and just get the chance to be competitive and throw the ball at the dunk tank, and watch the people fall in the water."

"Everyone still values their sport, and the culture we bring and just because we aren't Division I athletes doesn't mean we don't like appreciate our sport as much, or work just hard as to perfect our craft," Emanuel Garibaldi-Stevenson, senior defensive back of the football team said.

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