# Campus Times

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# Lecture talks religion and diversity

*Marina Bravo*
*Staff Writer*

This week, the University of La Verne's Ludwick Center hosted the seventh and final edition of the belongingness community lecture series, headed by Daniel Loera, director of multicultural affairs.

Seven students and faculty members attended.

The lecture titled "Religion, Spirituality and Worldview: Self-Care, Next Steps" was held in room 309 in the Ludwick Center.

Loera mentioned in the various sessions that these lectures were more like engaging conversations for the community. I

t is a place where students and ULV community members can come together and have a sense of community.

This week, Loera highlighted how challenging the subject of religion can be and how many people choose to avoid talking about it even if it plays a crucial role in everyday life.

He encouraged openness and hoped attendees would join the conversation by sharing their connection with religion if any and learn from one another.

"I think it's really important to have [...religion…] as an open conversation," Loera said.

During the lecture, Loera and peer facilitators, Jenieva Black, senior biology major and Malcolm Jones, senior sociology major, posed four questions for attendees to think about and answer in a group conversation with each other.

The questions asked were "What worldview do you identify with?", "What is a core value and/or practice of your worldview that you enjoy or appreciate?", "What is one assumption others have about your worldview that you would like to clarify?" and "What in your worldview gives you hope or peace?"

These questions allowed students and staff of diverse backgrounds to connect with one another and learn from each other. To break the scary conversation that comes with religion and difference of belief, to create that space of belonging.

"[The world…] is not just one way or one thing," Stacey Strickland Jr., adjunct dance professor and diversity, equity and inclusion Ambassador said.

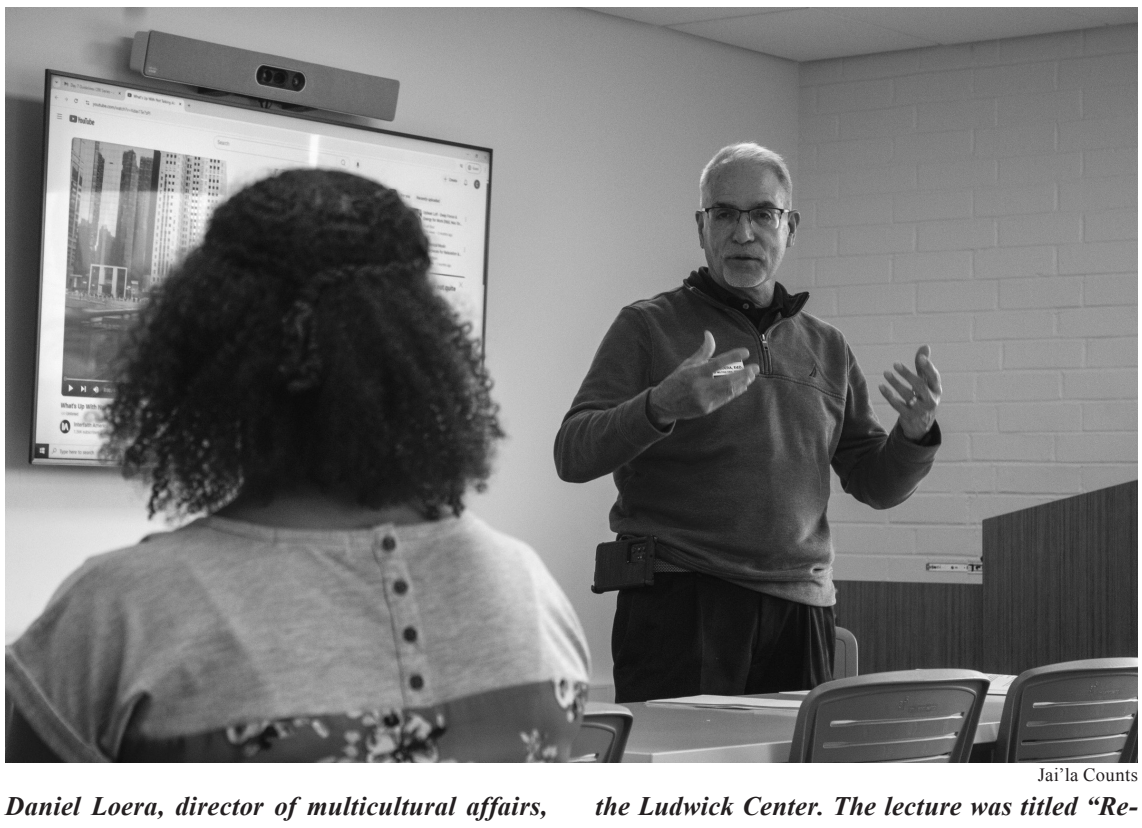
"Having these conversations and belongingness series, it allows people to experience a space of connectivity and find who [...they…] are."

Attendees were able to explore the concept of religion and spirituality.

They shared how they are uniquely connected through their spirituality. Many found community through similar experiences and also through learning about differences.

"[Religion…] helps you to understand yourself and your philosophies lie in the world," Asha Jones, a student assistant for the center for multicultural services and sophomore psychology major said. "It helps us understand how we're different and how we are very similar."

Attendees were able to not only connect through similarities but learn through differences. The space provided an opportunity of education and understanding. Highlighting the importance of diversity, living and thriving with others regardless of opinion.



Jai'la Counts

***Daniel Loera, director of multicultural affairs, speaks about religion for the final session of the seven-part Belongingness series Wednesday at the Ludwick Center. The lecture was titled "Religion, Spirituality and Worldview: Self-Care, Next Steps." Guests were encouraged to get into***

"For me it's more about treating people right," peer facilitator and senior sociology major, Malcolm Jones said. "You understand other's views and treat others how you would want to be treated."

Students and faculty were able to create a safe environment for one another by being open and understanding. Which are important steps for growth, conversation and connection. The basis of a strong community.

Many expressed how much they realize how they are not alone on campus. How they now have a space and group they can look forward to connecting and learning from. To feel belongingness..

Loera is hoping that students, faculty and staff are able to find community within these lectures and know that they do belong and have a space to belong in. In the Fall of 2025 he encourages more of the ULV community to come check out the lecture series as it is a space for all.

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# Professor evaluates Christianity's growth

*Jordan Alcasas*
*Social Media Editor*

The Socrates' Cafe lecture Monday focused on reflecting on Jesus Christ's life and the diverse views that people hold regarding religion.

About 30 University community members attended the event in the Quay Davis Executive Boardroom.

Jonathan Reed, a professor of philosophy and religious studies, was the speaker.

He focused on the evolution of how Christianity is viewed and how views have changed over time.

"The paradigm of Christianity was seen as a trunk with branches," Reed said. "Now people see Christianity as being very diverse at the very beginning."

Christianity is a religion with many different denominations and beliefs among different churches. As such, the tree metaphor Reed provided was to explain that while there are core beliefs at the center of every denomination that make up the trunk, the leaves are the differences between denominations and churches.

Additionally, this tree metaphor can explain how Christians view Jesus differently.

There is a central belief in Christ in the religion, but how he is portrayed can be very different from book to book in the New Testament.

The best way to understand is by looking at the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, which are both believed to be written based on the Gospel of Mark.

One example of these differences is the terminology used in the books. Where Mark would write the term 'Kingdom of God' numerous times in his book, Matthew would use the term 'Kingdom of Heaven'.

Reed also provided the story of the Gospel of Thomas as a further example of interpretations of Jesus.

The Gospel of Thomas was initially found in 1945, as it was likely believed to be heretic writings at the time it was written.

"There's a bit of a focus on spirituality and knowledge that'll set you free," Reed said. "It's in the other gospels, but more in Thomas."

The Gospel of Thomas sees Jesus as someone focused on enlightenment and someone who is similar to Buddha in belief.

*Continued on page 6*

### On the Cover

*Freshman third baseman Janelle Vega locks in for the throw to first base to secure an out against Pomona-Pitzer on April 11 at Campus West. The Sagehens defeated the Leopards, 5-1. The Leopards will host Chapman in a doubleheader beginning at noon Saturday at Campus West. / photo by Emily Casillas*


## Campus Times
## Spring 2025

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# AI benefits highlighted by panelists

*Olivia Russo*
*News Editor*




Thatiana Gibbs

***Panelists Heidi Baynes, coordinator of educational technology for the Riverside County Office of Education, Pratik Shah, CEO and founder of EsquireTek, and Brittany Hernandez, attorney and code developer, share insights on AI's growing role in law, education and technology at the College of Law and Public Service's 11th Annual Law Review Symposium on Artificial Intelligence on April 11 in the Campus Center Ballroom. This lasted from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with a short 15 minute break for lunch in the middle.***

Three panelists joined the University of La Verne College of Law and Public Service to give their 11th Annual Symposium, titled "Artificial Intelligence (AI)."

Which focused on the impacts of AI and how it can be implemented into everyday life of schools and law firms.

The panelists included Heidi Baynes, a coordinator of education technology for the Riverside County Office of Education, Pratik Shah, CEO and founder of EsquireTek, and Brittany Hernandez, attorney and professional no-code/low-code developer.

There was also a video shown by Dominique Shelton Leisig, founder and CEO of Global Data Innovation Inc.

This symposium was held at 10 a.m. on April 11, in the Campus Center Ballroom, to an audience of about 30 people and 60 attending on Zoom.

Throughout the two and a half hours, the panelists received questions from the host, Paul Naccachian, about various topics related to AI.

Then allowed a short question and answer session at the very end.

"I would be the first to admit that I was actually hesitant to try AI, when it was first coming out," Hernandez said.

"Firstly just acknowledging that it's completely understandable to be hesitant or resistant at first to adopt new technology.

"But I think that we can have more confidence with curiosity."

Many of the topics covered in regards to the use of AI was to make sure the technology does not do the work for an individual, but to make time consuming work more efficient.

"You have to know when to use it and what to use it for and what not to use it for," Shah said.

"And that comes from experience, and that comes from paying attention… The bottomline with AI and this technology is it's going to make good lawyers better and bad lawyers worse."

Hernandez explained that law firms use AI systems that they can ensure only use information that is relevant to their company.

This way, their use of AI will not get mixed with others who use these programs for fun.

Most of the answers from the panelists put emphasis on what the AI should do for those using it.

While it is a fun tool, they do not want it to compromise their critical thinking skills as well as their reputation.

They make sure to reread everything that was given to them by the tool, as they are aware the system may make a mistake.

While Shah and Hernandez were able to give a perspective on how AI is being used by lawyers, Baynes was able to give a perspective on how K-12 schools are reacting to the use of AI.

She explained that at the beginning, students seemed to be using these new technologies faster than the faculty and staff, so they needed to move the conversation from students cheating to what the program could do for education.

"I want this to amplify it to learning and I want it to personalize learning but I don't want them to use those skills that you develop… that helps us become critical thinkers and communicators and collaborators," Baynes said.

She also focused on how the curriculum of the schools may need to change because they are starting to become outdated, if there is new technology that can do the same things that schools are asking students to do.

During the Q&A session, all the panelists were asked about their relationship with AI knowing that it can harm the environment.

"We're in an infancy phase," Shah said.

"We haven't even scratched the fingernail of what it's going to look like by five, ten years from now.

"And that's the combination of just the things it's going to do, but also on the backhand, how quickly can we create the next technology."

From hearing the panelists, some of those in the audience were able to calm their doubts about the new technology.

Due to the fact that they have first hand experience with the new technology and know more about how it works.

"So I think it does ease a little bit of those doubts, but also like having this caution," Rebekah Hong, senior law student, said.

"This wise caution about how to approach it but also know we could use it in a really good way as we continue to develop."

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# Grocery workers strike for wages and benefits

*Tati Foor*
*Staff Writer*

Around 300 grocery store workers took to the streets of La Verne on Tuesday in a march organized by Grocery Workers Rising, a Southern California labor group.

The march, which began at the Vons at 1600 Foothill Blvd. and ended at the Stater Bros. at 2090 Foothill Blvd., drew a few hundred participants advocating for improved wages, staffing, benefits and health care.

Workers from Stater Bros., Albertsons, Vons and other local grocery chains joined to voice their concerns as contract negotiations continue between the unions and management.

"These workers work really hard and they deserve to have living wages," said Jenna Thompson, one of the march organizers and spokesperson for the United Food and Commercial Workers local 324."They deserve to have health care that they can rely on when they get sick and a retirement that they can plan for."

The demonstration marked a significant moment in the current contract campaign.

Thompson noted this was the first march of its kind in the area during her three years with the local union.

"The energy is amazing," Thompson said.

"There's workers everywhere in this parking lot. They're all fired up to be here and just excited they can be part of the campaign and doing something to try and better their lives."

Staffing shortages emerged as a key concern among workers. Victor Romero, who has worked at Stater Bros. since 1997, explained how understaffing affects customer service.

"The less people that are out on the floor, it takes a longer time to help customers out," Romero said.

"It takes a longer time to make sure the customer has a great experience inside the store. With the layoffs of the courtesy clerks, if customers want somebody to help them to their car, that's a courtesy clerk job."

"The whole job is customer service," Mark Delreal, a current employee for Stater Bros. said.

"Without enough staffing, we can't deliver them the customer service that we're known for."

Workers also highlighted concerns about wages not keeping pace with rising costs of living.

Romero pointed out that after the 2004 strike, wage increases were minimal.

"Even at the rate we're asking for, cost of living has already surpassed that," Romero said.

"This used to be a job where if you had aspirations to buy a home, working in the grocery industry would have been able to facilitate that for you. Now with house prices going up, a dollar raise a year is not enough to maintain just the current cost of living in California."

Health care benefits represent another critical issue. Pazsion Horner-Smith, a cancer survivor with 28 years in the grocery industry, opened up about her personal struggles.

"Medical support is very important for me," Horner-Smith said.

"I'm really trying to stand and bridge the gap for my part time workers that are having a harder time getting the hours needed in order for them to have their benefits."

She described how part time workers can lose eligibility for health care if they miss shifts, even for reasons like caring for a sick child.

Community response has been supportive according to organizers, with shoppers expressing solidarity throughout the day.

Meanwhile, corporate representatives were reportedly monitoring the demonstration.

As negotiations move forward, the march represents a pivotal moment for grocery store workers seeking to improve their working conditions.

With contract talks continuing in the coming weeks, workers hope their public display of solidarity will strengthen their chances of making a change.

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# Open house promotes some majors

*Erika Oceguera*
*Staff Writer*

Students gathered in front of Miller Hall on Wednesday for an open house event featuring many of the arts and humanities programs within the College of Arts and Sciences.

The event featured about 10 booths representing majors and departments including English, modern languages, photography, legal studies, philosophy and religious studies, and more.

About 30 faculty and students from the programs staffed the booths, answered questions and encouraged students to explore their disciplines.

Approximately 100 students attended the event to learn more about the various programs.

"In today's climate, it's really important to showcase majors that emphasize critical thinking, diversity and inclusivity," said Ann Hills, associate professor of Spanish and chair of the modern languages department. "Employers still want those skills – ethics, the ability to write and express yourself. You get all of that in the humanities."

The modern languages booth highlighted major and minor options in French, Spanish and Japanese, as well as the interdisciplinary international business and language programs.

"I used a lot of the skills I built in the Spanish department at my first job," said Julie Venegas, a La Verne alumna who majored in Spanish and broadcasting. "I ended up doing all of the Spanish translations for social media, creating videos with subtitles — it prepared me for real-world work right out of college."

Gerard Lavatori, professor of French and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, emphasized the global opportunities students gain through language study.

"We've had students go on to teach in France through the TAPIF program and even earn graduate degrees abroad," said Lavatori. TAPIF, which stands for Teaching Assistant Program in France, allows American students to teach English in French public schools.

"These are transformative opportunities that start with learning language and culture here."

At the English booth, current students talked about the department's supportive environment and the broad skill set English provides.

"The English program teaches you skills you can take practically anywhere," said sophomore English major Jesus Velazquez. "Writing, communication, critical analysis – It's definitely preparing me for life after graduation."

Maya Coles, also a sophomore English major, added that she found a sense of belonging through the small, tight-knit department."You're always with like-minded people," Coles said. "It really creates a sense of community."




Olivia Russo

***Dane Sawyer, instructor of philosophy and religious studies, talks to students at the Miller Hall Open House on Wednesday at the University Quad. Sawyer had a table with Elaine Padilla, chair of philosophy and religious studies, to explain what classes are being offered.***

The photography booth drew interest with displays of student work and conversations around artistic expression.

"I picked up a camera when I was young, and it just spoke to me," said sophomore photography major Jesse Juarez. "The professors here inspire us to evolve. They push us to grow as artists and people.

Jon Leaver, professor of art history and chair of the department of art and art history, said the arts offer a wide range of career opportunities and critical skills.

"We focus on helping students communicate their ideas, not just visually, but intellectually," Leaver said. "That's what employers want, thoughtful people who can think and express themselves clearly."

At the booth for philosophy, religious studies and Latinx/Latin American studies, Elaine Padilla, professor and chair of philosophy and religion, described her department's goal.

"We want students to look at life differently — to ask questions about politics, culture, and humanity," Padilla said. "These majors help students reflect deeply on the world and apply that knowledge in real ways. It's life-changing."

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# *Passover Seder brings reflection*



Vicente Rodriguez

***Cantor Paul Buch from Temple Beth Israel in Pomona leads the Karpas step of the University of La Verne's Passover Seder at the Campus Center Ballroom on Wednesday. The seder retells the story of the Jewish exodus from slavery in ancient Egypt, and in the Karpas step, a leafy green is dipped into salt water to symbolize tears that were shed by the enslaved Israelites. Buch led the seder before a group of about 20 people, including University Chaplain Zandra Wagoner; guest Matthew Cabrera and his mother Abigail Cabrera, assistant professor of the inclusive education program; and vice president of enrollment management Alaina Dunn.***

# Career fair provides job opportunities

*Margaret Contreras*
*Editor-in-Chief*

The University of La Verne held its annual Career and Internship Fair Wednesday in the Campus Center.

The event allowed students in-person time to meet with representatives of various businesses and industries and learn about available jobs and internships.

About 50 students showed up to the midday event, which was sponsored by the career center.

Green and orange balloons decorated the path upstairs to the third-floor ballroom.

Where students who had signed up in advance could check in and begin to explore opportunities.

Student participants were given a guide to distinguish which companies fit best with which major.

The University also offered on-campus resources including four tables offering guidance for ULV graduate admission, extended learning, the success center and the Wilson Library.

"(Certificate) programs are a way to help build your credibility," said Jaimie Rush, senior director of extended learning.

Local businesses represented included the Ontario International Airport, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and Sherwin-Williams.

One of the Sherwin-Williams store support managers on hand, Rosa Larios, is a 2015 University of La Verne alumna.

"It's great to come back and see my school again," Larios said. "When they said they were doing this at ULV, I was like 'sign me up'."

Some students dressed for the event in business attire.

"One of the ways you can stand out from your peers is in the way you dress," Academic Success Center director Savannah Garcia said.

*Continued on page 6*

## HAPPENINGS

### Big Sean

Lavernapalooza, the annual concert event, will be held at 7:30 p.m. May 8 at the Fox Theater in Pomona.

This year's headliner is 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/events/detail/921360.**

### 'Into the Woods Jr.'

The University of La Verne Choral Organization is presenting "Into the Woods Jr.," an adapted version of the popular musical created by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine. Featuring soloists, ULV Chamber Singers, and the University Chorale. The show will begin at 7 p.m. May 10 in Morgan Auditorium.

Tickets will be sold at the door for $20.

For more information, visit the **@ulvvocalmusic** Instagram page.

### 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. Sunday in Drinkward Recital Hall on the Harvey Mudd campus.

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*

# Claremont bar hosts Easter art event

*story and photography by Ethan Anderson*

On the southeast corner of The Packing House in Claremont is The Whisper House, a cocktail bar with a quaint outdoor patio that hosts various events. On Monday evening the Whisper House hosted a Spring Time Paint N Sip, where friends came together to share some laughs, drinks and to satisfy their creative itch.

"Claremont has a very artistic-type environment," Whisper House general manager Valerie Lopez said. "We thought we should really get involved and saw it as an opportunity to connect with the community."

The Whisper House hired paint instructor Quilainne Wheeler, who showed up with a bubbly, comedic approach to guiding 22 participants through the painting process. All while cracking jokes and making everyone feel comfortable, she put participants in the proper head space to create.

"It's not about the painting, it's about enjoying yourself," Wheeler said. "Life has got so many different things going on in it, and we use so much of our time and energy on day to day life that sometimes we forget about ourselves."

Participants were guided by Wheeler, better known as "Q," in painting an Easter Bunny with a top hat and a carrot resting atop its hat. Painters were also taught the process of mixing paint to create different colors.

"The painting experience gets me out of my daily routine," insurance worker and participant Veronica Adame said. "So it gives me something new to do and it gets my head off daily activities."

The Whisper House patio is small and has a fireplace, sandwiched between two muted toned sofas. Warm light pours out of fixtures that hang over the tables, illuminating the canvas. Each table had various sized brushes for precise painting. The fire and mobile heaters produced ample heating for the space, keeping conditions comfortable as the sun set. Nestled against train tracks, occasionally a train came by blowing its horn, startling guests and making many smile. Waiters and waitresses tirelessly brought out food and drink for the participants, who indulged in wings, nachos, french fries and cocktails.

"We have a really talented bar manager, and he's always creating new cocktails every week," Lopez said. "We make our own syrups and bitters in-house, we're always trying to use fresh ingredients, we are known for our cocktails."



***Participants in the Spring Time Paint N Sip event at the Whisper House in Claremont paint a blue sky as the base for their Easter bunny piece Monday. Tickets were $50 and included everything needed to paint, as well as a signature cocktail.***

Guests paid $50 per ticket through Eventbrite, and were given the necessary painting supplies including a canvas, one signature cocktail and raffle tickets that were drawn throughout the event for various prizes. There were three raffles total, each prize was inside a gift bag that all included a bottle of wine. One bag had an easter bunny themed notepad and pen. The next had a wine glass tumbler and pink bunny ear headband. The third gift bag had another wine glass tumbler with a bunny ear headband, only this one was yellow. Several colors created the easter bunny: blue, pink, orange, green, and black to outline and make features like the mouth and eyes. This is Whisper House's second Paint N Sip, the first being Galentines Paint N Sip on Feb. 5.

"I like the small atmosphere, the just closeness, and vibe of this whole place," Insurance worker and participant Marchela Llamas said. "It's just very welcoming, inviting, and engaging."

When everyone was done with their paintings, they all got together with their creations for a photo behind the fireplace."Q" then chose a winner for first and second best bunny painting, where she chose the paintings that had original features added on, the winners won Whisper House gift cards.

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# Outdoor concert features classics

*Zachary Grech*
*Calendar Editor*



Zachary Grech

***Mario Aguayo, sophomore music major, performs for the first ever patio concert at Barbara's Place outside the Campus Center on Wednesday. Aguayo's set included a number of covers of classic rock songs.***

Before a cloudy backdrop Wednesday afternoon, the community was treated to a rare patio concert at the Barbara's Place patio.

Guitarist Mario Aguayo, a sophomore music major, played for an audience of about 10.

Aguayo had a set list of covers and original songs that embody the acoustic vibe as he strummed his acoustic guitar. The set list included the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun," Tom Petty's "Free Fallin'" and Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely."

All of these songs highlighted Aguayo's vocal talents and canny emotional interpretations of the classic songs.

Aguayo shared his process of choosing the set list for this concert and how he thought about the personal interests of the audience.

"In a gig like this, you've really got to base it off what people want, which is the most important thing," Aguayo said.

Aguayo's performance also included his original songs, with one particularly sentimental piece about his girlfriend Julianna Othmer, a freshman music education major at University of Southern California.

He talked about his experiences with his girlfriend and how much he loves her.

"The song is about all the trials and tribulations of life," Aguayo said. "Going through all these hardships (and) having somebody there to be your backbone and to support you, which makes you realize the beauty of life."

Grace Xia Zhao, music professor and department chair, and Nicholas Galvan, music department manager, worked with student services to schedule the patio concert.

Galvan praised Aguayo as a unique musician who embraces the classic hits and how his performance style really suits that type of music.

Zhao said she was pleased with the collaboration between music and student services.

"Musicians believe that part of the essential college experience (is a) live music venue to bring the campus community together," Zhao said.

She said Aguayo was the perfect person to jumpstart this experience because of his versatility as a musician and skill as a performer.

The small-yet-engaged audience along with the familiar songs.

Angelina Alvarez, junior psychology major who has attended Aguayo's performances previously, was glad she came out Wednesday.

"He's funny, and I like the way he sings," Alvarez said. "And the songs that he writes are something that people can relate to, especially the younger generation."

Alvarez said she looks forward to more such patio performances.

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

## Career fair...

*Continued from page 4*

"You are here talking to professionals trying to see if it is a good fit for you too. You are trying to tell them why you would be a good fit for their company or business, just like how they are a good fit for you," Garcia added.

Students stopped and asked question. The additional businesses represented included the Abramson Labor Group, Action Property Management, CalTrans, Consolidated Electrical Distribution (CED), Cope Health Solution Health Scholars, Enterprise Mobility, Lewis Group of Companies, Los Angeles County Probation, Mckinley Children's Center, RNDC Gallo Wines Division and Transcend Information.

"I just like that these opportunities on campus and I don't have to go out of campus," sophomore psychology major Samuel Fernandez said.

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## *Artists turn everyday items into art*



Rylee Fournier

***Artists Jonn Herschend and Will Rogan discuss their exhibit "One Last Thing Again" on April 11 at the Benton Museum of Art in Claremont. The conversation explored their contributions and the ideas behind the collaborative exhibition.***

## Christianity..

*Continued from page 2*

Other gospels of the New Testament have different focuses.

The Gospel of Mark has a large focus on the end times. The Gospel of Matthew has a large focus on preserving teachings, while the Gospel of Luke focuses on portraying Jesus as a figure of social justice. Interpretations change, but Jesus remains with a lot of his core traits in every book.

"Many people choose and emphasize or combine these in a way, but whatever Jesus you lean towards, they have to make sense in Judaism and the time to make sense," Reed said.

Reed continued into the lecture from there with the goal of explaining how the context of Judaism may have shaped how Jesus was viewed at the time. For example, Judaism has a large focus on the idea of purity, both physically and spiritually.

Later on, he talked about the way history solidifies our views and understandings of figures such as Jesus.

"The stories I'm talking about don't get totally calcified but they get pretty set," Reed said. "They get retold, and if you read it, they get told in like six minutes. So, I'm sure he was telling similar stories in different ways at different points."

Audience members also had a bit of commentary regarding this topic during a portion of the lecture time where Reed took comments.

"There's stories that are rooted in location, and things like the Gospel of Mary where they try to match miracles and supernatural things to Jesus-like behaviors," Marcia Godwin, public administration professor, said. "There was this miracle of things in the temples and things that seem much more like myths and fables than chronologies in a location."

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# Leopards search for a playoff spot

*CC Flaherty*
*Staff Writer*

The women's water polo team struggled to keep up with Pomona-Pitzer on Wednesday at the La Verne Aquatic Center, which led them to a 24-7 loss. There were over 50 Leopards fans cheering them on.

This was the Leopards' last conference regular season game.

The Leopards had a slow start and struggled to come back, but that didn't stop them from executing their game plan on offense and defense.

Graduate student center Olivia Taylor, junior attackers Brooklyn Young and Maddie Grove and senior defender Brianna Zapata were the main scorers for the Leopards and were able to break through the e defense.

"Going up against a power house, making sure we give the best effort and making sure we're not coming out of this game with injuries," head coach Robert Echeverria said. "We were trying to build momentum for that play in the game so I think that was the main goal."

In the first quarter, the Sagehens were indeed a power house that jumped on the Leopards from the start with four goals in the first five minutes.

The Leopards eventually got a breakthrough with a goal from Young, off an assist from Zapata.

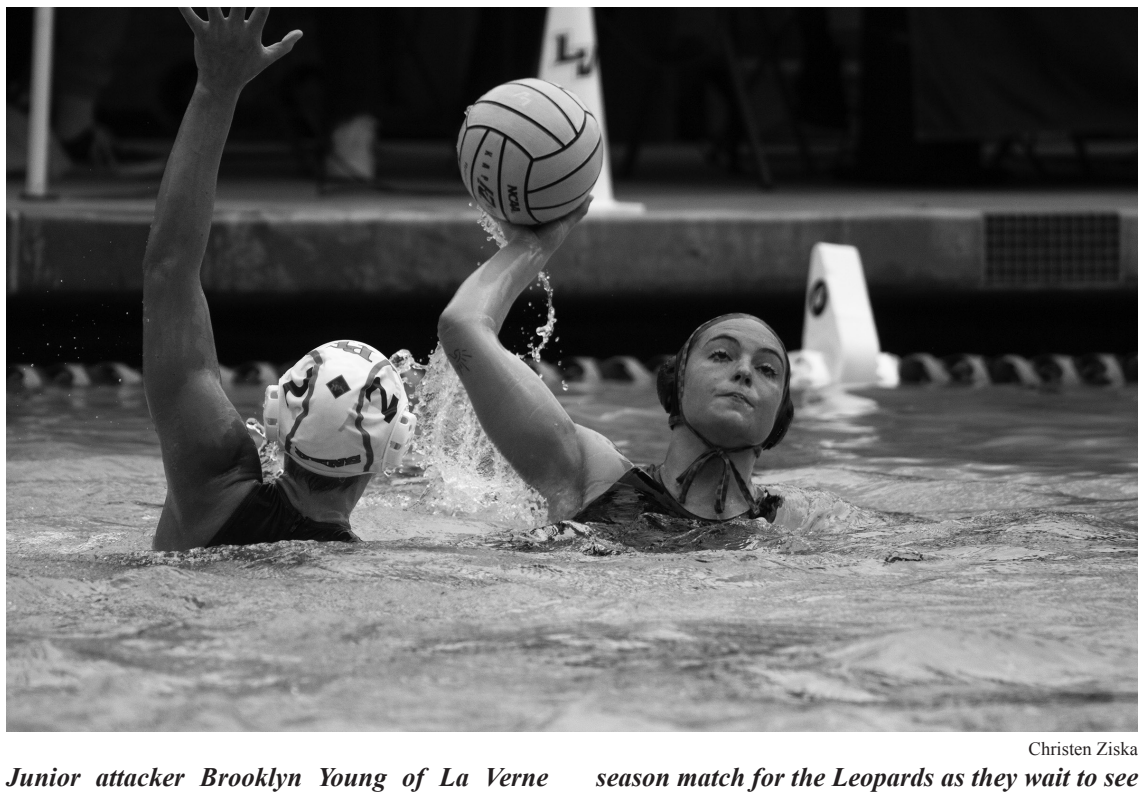
"A personal goal was to just have fun because we knew it was going to be a tough game. I think going into it we didn't really have anything to lose so we just kind of had a more chill mindset." Young said.

In the second quarter the Sagehens dominated again, scoring two more goals in the first three minutes. With the Leopards frustrated, they responded with good communication and ball movement, which led to Grove's solid goal.

The Sagehens' communication and consistency frustrated the Leopards, causing them to turn over the ball and get penalties called against them. With those calls, the Sagehens found ways to score.

"I would say honestly I was very calm because there's not much expectations because we're still in fifth right now. I cared but I just wasn't as nervous or anxious," Grove said. "As a team we were just ready to do the best we could, you know because we were the underdog and see what we can do but playing hard was it."

In the third quarter, the Leopards were down 13-2 and the Saghens were giving them trouble on both offense and defense. The Sagehens were moving fast and aggressively to the ball beating the Leopards there. The Leopards kept a good mentality and responded with a goal from Grove again.



Christen Ziska

***Junior attacker Brooklyn Young of La Verne looks to make a pass during the team's battle against Pomona-Pitzer on Wednesday at the La Verne Aquatic Center. This was the final regular season match for the Leopards as they wait to see who they will play against at the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Postseason Tournament on Tuesday.***

"We need to build rhythm and momentum going into our next game. I need everyone to want the ball." Echeverria said.

Going into the fourth quarter, the Leopards were still down, 20-3, and the Sagehens scored four more goals.

The Leopards took what Echeverria said and kept pushing all together as they responded with four goals for themselves.

In the end, La Verne couldn't break through the power house Pomona-Pitzer team.

"Definitely should have been a better game than it was, but a lot of it was from a slow start which made it more competent," Taylor said. "For our next game we need to win so we're going to play hard and aggressively come in strong."

The Leopards' record is 8-15 overall and 7-5 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The team will be on the road next to continue on for the postseason Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament play where they will be competing in a play-in game. That game will take place at Cal Lutheran with the date, time and opponent to be determined on Tuesday.

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# Baseball avoids being swept by Cal Lutheran

*Lexi Giacobbe*
*Staff Writer*

After losing the opener in a 1-0 nail biter, the Leopards had to muster up some strength to not get swept by the No. 15-ranked Cal Lutheran Kingsmen in their Saturday doubleheader at Ben Hines Field.

But solid pitching, especially from junior starter Caughlin Shults, gave La Verne the win, 9-4.

Shults had full command of his fastball and held Cal Lutheran to four scoreless innings while getting run support in the third from a sacrifice fly by junior shortstop Ryan Vosika.

The Leopards opened the weekend series with the Kingsmen with a 4-3 loss Friday in Thousand Oaks, so this would give La Verne their first lead of the series and give them confidence later on.

"I felt good coming into the game today, I was confident in myself and my team," Shults said.

Cal Lutheran did not give up and would tie it in the fifth inning. They strung together a hit and a walk off freshman pitcher Cobin Duffield and it was looking like it was going to be a big inning for the Kingsmen. But then La Verne graduate student pitcher Garret Halbeisen came in and stopped the bleeding.

This would give the Leopards the confidence and the strength to fight back in a tied game.

"Going into today, the plan was to be aggressive in the strike zone, throw all my pitches for strikes, and get ahead of every hitter," Halbeisen said. "We've been sticking to our staff philosophy of trying to get guys out or on base within three pitches, and I felt like I – along with the rest of the staff – really battled and worked hard to execute that."

To start off the fifth inning, senior left fielder Nolan Anguiano singled and with a passed ball allowed him to reach second.

The Kingsmen would get two quick outs but timely hitting from senior center fielder Benny Vogel drove in Anguiano and broke the tie.

All with two outs, Vosika got hit by a pitch and senior designated hitter Malachi Francois singled to load the bases.

This put the Kingsmen in a jam.

A walk to senior first baseman Noah Garcia made the score 3-1, but that was all the Leopards would get.

The two teams went blow-for-blow, fighting until the eighth inning.

The score was 5-4 and the Leopards were on top.

Junior third baseman Aaron Whobrey singled to start off the inning and a sacrifice bunt put him in scoring position.

Vosika singled up the middle to score Whobrey to start the rally.



Ethan Anderson

***Senior outfielder Nolan Anguiano squares up a baseball to his pull side in the third game of the series against the Cal Lutheran Kingsmen at Ben Hines Field on Saturday. The Leopards won the game, 9-4, avoiding the sweep putting them at second in SCIAC standings.***

Then junior catcher Nate Perry singled to left and the nail in the coffin came when Garcia hit a home run to blast the lead open, 9-4.

"The home run was nice but we won one game out of three and we have a lot of work to do.," Garcia said.

"It was good to win that game but there is work that needs to be done this week."

Cal Lutheran did not give up and gave the Leopards a run for their money in the eighth and ninth.

If it were not for some stellar pitching performances from junior Gabe Lucero and sophomore Justin Ries, the Leopards would have been in a tough position.

"Our guys are ready physically but at this time of the year we are trying to train the mental side of the game and concentration, and keep doing the things it takes to win. And that stuff is hard to do," head coach Scott Winterburn said.

The Leopards followed the series with a 3-0 non-conference loss to Masters on Wednesday.

The team is now 23-6 overall and 11-4 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

They are second place in conference, just one game behind Cal Lutheran.

Next up for the Leopards is a weekend series with Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference rival Occidental.

The series will kick off at 3 p.m. on Friday at Ben Hines Field, followed by a doubleheader at 11 a.m. Saturday in Eagle Rock.

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# Sagehen grand slam leads to defeat

*Leila El Sabbagh*
*Sports Editor*



Emily Casillas

***Junior pitcher Jaidynn Alvarez winds up for a pitch against Pomona-Pitzer on April 11 at Campus West. Alvarez was brought into the circle in the fourth inning, where she pitched two scoreless innings. La Verne took the loss against Pomona-Pitzer, 5-1.***

The Leopards' softball team was unable to make it past their rival, the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens, for their first matchup of the season, losing 5-1 on April 11 at Campus West.

La Verne struggled to get runs on the board until the fifth inning where sophomore second baseman Julia Miramontes hit a single to right field.

"I think we all wanted to find the energy and be able to sustain it," head coach Danielle Kaminaka said.

"It's easy sometimes when you're looking at a team who's struggling to overlook them, but in every game confidence is huge."

The Sagehens were consistently ready at all stages of the game with the first inning being no exception.

With two bases handed to them through a walk and hit-by-pitch, Pomona-Pitzer was able to load the bases with a two out single.

Sophomore designated player Brooke Bullis hit a grand slam to bring in four of the five runs for the Sagehens.

She later drove in the fifth run on an RBI single, making her Pomona-Pitzer's biggest weapon against the Leopards.

Senior starting pitcher Kirstin Sanchez gave up all five runs, however after the rough first few innings, she was able to keep the Sagehens shut down.

"Having my teammates cheer me on feels so good, it gets my heart pumping and flowing," Sanchez said. "It picks me up and gets me ready to go."

Freshman shortstop Mackenzie Johnson had another stellar game on the dirt.

She is currently ranked No. 1 in overall fielding in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

"We talk to our pitchers a lot and just know that they need us and no matter what we're always there," Johnson said.

The Leopards struggled to get their bats going throughout the game.

> 'I think we all really wanted to find the energy to be able to sustain it. It's easy sometimes when you're looking at a team who's struggling to overlook them, but in every game confidence is huge.'
> *–Danielle Kaminaka, head coach*

Players like third and fourth spot batters, senior catcher Alyssa Campbell and senior center fielder Ashley Rodriguez went hitless in all three of their at bats during the game.

"We can't start low, we have to start up with the team we're playing right now," Campbell said.

"They're definitely not going to let it go easy so we need to stay in the game."

Six runners for the Leopards were left on base, giving them plenty of opportunities to capitalize and punch back against the Sagehens.

After the first inning, the Leopards were unable to gain any kind of traction leaving their energy flat with sparks of momentum which ultimately led to their one run game.

Alvarez kept the momentum that Sanchez left and continued to keep the Sagehens to zero hits.

Heading into the sixth inning the Leopards looked to junior pitcher Jaidynn Alvarez to close the game out.

Although their performance was off, the team is looking to move on from this game and to dig deeper into themselves to push forward in conference play.

"We're going to stay aggressive, I think we got a little away from that," Kaminaka said.

"Our defense was solid, our pitching came back and locked it down. Our goal is to be able to pass the bat to the next player and have them own it."

La Verne's record is now 15-13 overall with a record of 6-5 in Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play.

The Leopards will compete in their next three game series at 3 p.m.

Friday against the Chapman Panthers in Orange, followed by a doubleheader at Campus West at noon Saturday.

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## LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

### AT THE BUZZER

*Baseball, April 12*
G1: Cal Lutheran - 1
**La Verne - 0**
G2: **La Verne - 9**
Cal Lutheran- 4

*Softball, April 12*
**G1: La Verne - 9**
Pomona-Pitzer - 5
G2: Pomona-Pitzer - 3
**La Verne - 0**

*Softball, April 15*
Cal Lutheran - 6
**La Verne - 2**

*Baseball, April 16*
Master's - 3
**La Verne - 0**

*Women's Water Polo, April 16*
Pomona-Pitzer- 24
**La Verne - 7**

### SCHEDULE

*Friday*
Men's and women's track and field at Brayan Clay Combined Invitational @ Azusa, all-day Men's and women's track and field at Mt. Sac Relays with CE @ Torrance, CA all-day
Men's and women's track and field at CSULB Pacific Invite/Beach Invite @ Long Beach, all day
Men's and women's track and field in ULV Leopard Invitational, all day
Baseball vs. Occidental, 3 p.m.
Softball @ Chapman, 3 p.m.

*Saturday*
Men's and women's track and field at Mt. Sac Relays with CE @ Torrance, CA all-day
Men's and women's track and field at CSULB Pacific Invite/Beach Invite @ Long Beach, all day
Baseball @ Occidental, 11 a.m.
Softball vs. Chapman, noon
Baseball @ Occidental, 2 p.m.
Softball vs. Chapman, 2 p.m.

### BASEBALL STANDINGS

| | SCIAC | Overall |
|---|---|---|
| Cal Lutheran | 12-3 | 22-7 |
| **La Verne** | 11-4 | 23-6 |
| Claremont-MS | 12-6 | 22-8 |
| Redlands | 11-7 | 22-12 |
| Pomona-Pitzer | 8-7 | 18-11 |
| Chapman | 6-9 | 7-23 |
| Whittier | 5-13 | 11-19 |
| Caltech | 4-11 | 6-22 |
| Occidental | 3-12 | 10-21 |