Campus Times

October 3, 2025 | Serving the University of La Verne Community Since 1919 | Vol. 134, No. 6



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Event focuses on identity, sexism

About 15 students attended this week's Belongingness talk, which focused on gender identity and sexism. The weekly event, headed by Daniel Loera, director of multicultural affairs, was held in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room.

Loera briefly defined gender identity as an individual's innermost concept of what it means to be cisgender, transgender or gender non-conforming.

Sexism, he explained, is a system of prejudice that reinforces and maintains a complex structure in society towards gender identities.

In three groups, students were categorized by their gender identity of female, male and non-binary.

The group discussions were facilitated by Loera, Marquisha Frost, assistant vice president of inclusive excellence and missions integration, and Stacey Strickland, adjunct professor and diversity, equity and inclusion ambassador.

Facilitators asked participants to share their own definitions of gender and gender roles.

Jovanni Gaines, senior organizational management major, who participated in the event and identifies as nonbinary said that facets of identity such as sexuality and gender are often shaped by LGBTQ+ backgrounds.

This can affect how someone sees themselves and how society views them, Gaines said.

"People sometimes don't understand who we are, because we can go through the same things but experience it differently based on how we present ourselves," Gaines said.

"Being able to sit and talk as a diverse community and being respectful was nice," said Simone Warren, senior criminology major, who participated in the discussion.

—Cassidy Diaz



Marina Bravo

Daniel Loera, director of multicultural affairs, leads the Community Belongingness Lecture discussion about gender identities and sexism Tuesday in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room. Students and discussion facilitators come together every week for this lecture series to create a space of acceptance and community at the University of La Verne.

Editorial

Censoring free speech is un-American

At this moment in time, our First Amendment rights are under threat in ways we have not seen in at least a generation.

The most high-profile and clearly egregious example of this – last month's abrupt cancellation of Jimmy Kimmel Live! following thuggish threats by FCC Chairman Brendan Carr, ended with Kimmel being reinstated a week later.

This was a win for free speech, but the threat is still present, and have had lasting effects,

Numerous other attacks on free speech by the Trump Administration have yielded more troubling results.

Media conglomorates, wanting to stay on Trump's good side have complied in advance by canceling or chilling comedians' and journalists' free speech, and by paying the Trump Administration off when they threaten to sue the media companies.

Paramount, the parent company for "60 Minutes," responded to the Administration's lawsuit threat over a story about Trump opponent Kamala Harris, by donating $16 million to Trump's presidential library.

In response to Trump's dislike for comedian Stephen Colbert, who routinely pokes fun at the president, Paramount announced that Colbert's Emmy-winning "Late Night" show would end in May of next year.

The Trump Administration likewise sued the Wall Street Journal last month over their publication of information linking Trump to Jeffrey Epstein, the financier and convicted child sex offender, though the publication is trying to get the suit thrown out.

The president tried to sue the New York Times, also last month, for undermining his business and financial prowess, though that suit was thrown out.

And earlier this year, Trump banned the Associate Press from White House briefings, Air Force One and more because the news organization refused to comply with Trump's call to rename the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America.

Free speech and freedom of the press, as protected by the First Amendment, are among the most important rights in the United States.

They are what ensure we can avoid a fascist government and hold our own government officials accountable for their policies and behaviors.

Censoring the news media, as well as comedians, who scrutinize and criticize government officials, is a tactic of autocrats.

One of the main reasons we revolted against the British government in 1775 was because of the unfair treatment and taxation we endured.

The press, at the time, served to spread news about the British government's actions against the states, such as The Boston Gazette's pieces about the The Boston Massacre.

The action by the press ultimately led to journalists and reporters helping to fan the flames that sparked the Revolutionary War.

Free speech and a free press allow society access to the information we need to take action on our own behalf and on behalf of protecting democracy.

It allows us to call out the atrocities at home – against immigrants, women, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community and the poor – and abroad.

Free speech is our right as American citizens, and it is a right in this country even if you are not a citizen.

The Trump administration would like to silence dissent in the news and entertainment media, as well as in the public square by threatening, intimidating and even arresting protestors.

But peaceful protest is also protected under the First Amendment.

We at the Campus Times appreciate the privilege to practice our First Amendment rights by publishing and posting weekly and independently as we have done for the past 100+ years.

We hope to continue to do so for at least another 100 years, and we encourage our readers to practice their First Amendment rights as well by using their voices, their words, and their rights to peacefully protest whenever their Constitutional rights are under threat.

Campus Times
Fall 2025

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Campus Times Online

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Corrections

The Campus Times is committed to accuracy. When we make mistakes, however, it is our policy to correct them as soon as they are brought to our attention.

If you find a mistake in the Campus Times, please let us know at **ctimes@laverne.edu**.

Letters to the Editor

The Campus Times encourages readers to submit letters to the editors regarding topics covered in the paper. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length and are due by Tuesday at 3 p.m. The Campus Times reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, space and libel. Letters may be sent to **ctimes@laverne.edu**.

The Campus Times is published weekly by the Communications Department, except during examination and vacation periods, by journalism students of the University of La Verne, 1950 Third Street, La Verne, California, 91750. The Campus Times is a laboratory publication for Newspaper Production classes Journalism 220, Journalism 320 and Journalism 408. Signed columns are the opinion of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Campus Times. For advertising information, call 909-448-4761 or email ***ctimesad@laverne.edu****.*

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On the Cover

A BMX rider does some warm-up flips before performing at the Fairplex during the annual truck show on Saturday. The rider flips through the air as part of the high-energy event showing his skills to the crowd. / photo by Baljot Rathor

Couple spotlights value of heritage

Jordan Alcasas
News Editor

Pyet Despain, a private chef and first winner of the TV show "Next Level Chef," and Eric Hernandez, a film director and hoop dancer, discussed the importance of connecting with culture through various methods.

Despain and Hernandez are both of Native American descent, and are soon to be married.

The lecture took place Wednesday in Morgan Auditorium. There were about 130 people in the audience for the lecture.

Despain spent her portion of the lecture discussing the importance of food and cuisine when connecting with a person's culture. In her experience, making dishes from those cultures and seeing what ingredients or foods came from one place or another helped her to trace her roots back to the Mexican and Indigenous cultures that define her ancestry.

"Our relationship with food is one of the most intimate ones we have," Despain said. "Food represents our daily rituals, what we want to take into our bodies and what we are cooking with every single day. It's the thing that is most present and it represents our culture in a lot of ways too, so you can distinguish someone from region-to-region based on what they eat."

"You can learn a lot about cultures based on their spices and the flavors, and even their techniques."

Despain spoke about a few of the types of foods that would be found in Indigenous cultures. For example, tomatoes originated in the Americas, as well as bell peppers and even tuna fish. These were all foods that she, at a younger age, had no idea originated from North and South America.

This led to her making a meal on-stage that could be affordable for college students but also stay culturally in touch. She made a salad using pre-packaged tuna or canned tuna depending on what is on hand, chopped onions, bell peppers, tomatoes, cilantro, chipotle peppers and lime.

"The tuna is really healthy for our brains," Despain said. "Our brains and eyesight, and all of those things we need in life can be found in tuna."

She mentioned that this recipe, along with some others, can be found in her new cookbook, "Rooted in Fire: A Celebration of Native American and Mexican Cooking."

The lecture shifted over to Hernandez afterwards, who is a member of the Lumbee Tribe that originated in South Carolina. He began his portion of the lecture by explaining the importance of being in La Verne.

Hernandez said that he grew up here and attended Oak Mesa Elementary School, where his mom taught for 40 years. He grew up in schools in the surrounding area, and told a story about when he was in high school, where a teacher asked him to do a hoop dance for the student body.

"The hoop dance originally comes from a tribe in New Mexico," Hernandez said.

"They believed it to be a healing ceremony. That every time the hoop passes through your body, it will find life. I have been doing this for about 20 years now, and we believe that the hoop adds an hour to your life every time it passes through your body."

The hoop dance takes inspiration from the eagle, with formations being formed between the hoops that form eagle wings or a nest depending on the part of the dance.

"I want you to look for the story being told here," Hernandez said.

"I want you to receive that healing in this dance. With over 500 tribes in the United States, we didn't have books, so our songs and dances were ways of sharing stories. Stories are powerful, they help us to relate, and to help others find their own stories."

Hernandez then performed the dance for the audience. Afterwards, he said the fifth hoop in the dance is the most important one, the hoop helps to create the eagle and the nest. It's the hoop that is always in the center, and allows him to do things like flap his wings.

"It also represents the creator of all things, that great creator, that great spirit," Hernandez said.

"It's that fifth hoop that holds things together and gives direction. When we remove it from our life, everything seems to fall apart."

President of the University Risa Dickson, who introduced the two, explained the concept of the lecture series and the relevance of exploring different cultures through it.

"This lecture series was named for Harold Fasnacht, who served as president of the University for 20 years," Dickson said.

"The name may be familiar because of the Fasnacht Courtyard. This series was created to focus on the issues of society and religion, and the issues of importance to Dr. Fasnacht."

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Marina Bravo

Eric Hernandez, hoop dancer and member of the Lumbee Tribe, performs an indigenous healing dance at the Fasnacht Lecture Series on Wednesday in Morgan Auditorium. Hernandez explained how the hoops all signify the amount of healing a person receives and each time a hoop passes through their body, that represents an hour of life extended.

Journalism outlets win top national awards

Students stand for free speech

Marina Bravo
Arts Editor

The Campus Times and La Verne Magazine have each won the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Gold Medal award, the association's top honor for overall journalism excellence – for college Newspaper/Online Hybrid, and college Magazine/Online Hybrid, respectively, for the 2024-25 academic year, the New York-based association announced late last month.

Additionally the student journalism publications won a combined 12 awards for individual stories, photos and overall publication excellence from the Society of Professional Journalists in the organization's Western regional contest for 2024.

These awards place the publications among the top college journalism outlets across the nation.

Both the Campus Times and the La Verne Magazine earned the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, or CSPA, additional distinction of "All Columbian," based on their scores. The Campus Times scored 962.5 out of 1,000 possible points, and La Verne Magazine scored 930 out of 1,000 possible points.

Senior communications major April Cambero served as Campus Times editor-in-chief for fall 2024, and senior communications major Margaret Contreras served as Campus Times editor-in-chief for spring 2025.

Senior communications major Rebecca Keeler was La Verne Magazine editor in fall 2024, and 2025 communications alumna Erika Oceguera was La Verne Magazine editor in Spring 2025.

Journalism Professor Elizabeth Zwerling is faculty advisor for Campus Times.

Journalism professors George Keeler and Randy Miller advised the La Verne magazine in fall 2024 and spring 2025 respectively.

Journalism Department Manager and Adjunct Professor Eric Borer is photography advisor for both publications.

The CSPA, contest involves an intensive critique for which judges evaluate the full academic year of publications and online issues awarding points for categories including depth and breadth of coverage, writing, editing and visual components.

"It is a heavy honor," said George Keeler, who is also journalism and communications program chair.

"It's an achievement that ranks up there as a Pulitzer Prize for college students."

"It is just amazing to see not only my hard work, but also the editors (and) staff writers' hard work being recognized," said Contreras, a senior communications major, who is serving a second term as Campus Times editor in chief this semester.

The publications, however, are no strangers to these awards.

The Campus Times and La Verne Magazine have been consistent annual winners in both of these prestigious contests for more than two decades.

"These awards place us as really one of the best journalism programs in the nation," Zwerling said. "We are just so thrilled."

"It is really important to recognize the work that we do, and really (the work) all college journalists do," Borer added. "The work of student journalists is overlooked. They do a job that is just as important and just as good as professional journalists."

At a time when journalism is being defunded and free speech is under threat as never before, the work of independent journalists who hold the powers that be to account is critical, Zwerling said.

"They are part of the resistance," Zwerling added. "Students decide to take editor positions and volunteer their time because they want to make a difference."

"Being recognized as one of the best collegiate writers… It is a validation of my hard work, passion and dedication I have for journalism," said Rebecca Keeler, who is serving her second term as La Verne Magazine editor-in-chief this fall.

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association is an international student press organization uniting student journalists and faculty at colleges through educational conferences, idea exchanges and award programs.

CSPA is owned and operated by Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

The Association, founded in 1925 is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious student journalism associations.

The Society of Professional Journalists, established in 1909 ad DePaw University, is one of the oldest and most consequential journalism organizations – with roughly 300 chapters across the U.S., and more than 9,000 media members.

Besides its annual contests, SPJ works to promote and defend freedom of speech and freedom of the press, and to support diversity, ethical behavior and high standards in professional and student journalism.

In addition to the CSPA Gold Medals, the publications' student staff writers and photographers won three first place honors and nine finalist, or second-place, awards from the Society of Professional Jounalists

For the full list of winners, see the Campus Times publication online at **lvcampustimes.org.**

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

Truck show features model variety

The Grand National Truck Show was on at the Fairplex on Sept. 26 and 27, for truck owners to display their prized vehicles for truck enthusiasts.

The event had both an outdoor and an indoor display, with more than 70 trucks in all, in a variety of vintage and new trucks, including Volkswagens, Fords and more.

This year's show introduced the inaugural "World's Most Beautiful Truck Award," which went to Larry Jancito for his blue 1941 Willy's Pickup Truck.

It had a shiny blue paint job and leather interior.

It also had a custom 1946 Chevy truck bed and tailgate.

"I love trucks," said event guest Keith Riley, who lives in Corona. "I've had trucks since I graduated from college over 40 years ago. I enjoy seeing what folks have done as far as customization. It's never ceased to amaze me how creative people are."

Besides trucks, the event offered a BMX trick riding demonstration and food, including Pink's Hot Dogs, nachos and lemonade.

Vendors sold truck-related stuff, including tires and trucker hats.

—Miguel Navarro



Baljot Rathor

Classic trucks are displayed at the Fairplex during the annual truck show Saturday as enthusiasts gather around to admire their custom modifications. The vehicles show off their engines as the owners explain the craftsmanship behind each build.



Baljot Rathor

A custom Nissan truck from Numinis SoCal showcases impressive artwork of the DC Comics character Poison Ivy on its lifted bed.



Baljot Rathor

A 1932 Ford Roadster is displayed at the Fairplex Annual Truck Show on Saturday. Spectators gathered to view the vintage truck.

Making fairy habitats



Rylee Fournier

Sophomore organizational management major Kaitlyn Pamintuan and sophomore criminology major Raquel Bojorquez work the Campus Activities Board event Magic in the Meadow on Monday by handing out customizable fairy gardens to students. The event was part of CAB's Homecoming Week, which featured activities to engage students and build school spirit.

Introducing the Court of Leos



Mia Byington

Court of Leos nominees are presented Monday in the Campus Center Ballrooms. The nominees include senior biology major Alaa Shilleh, with her escort Suhyb Ras from Arcadia; senior biology major Alec Maxwell, with his escort senior chemistry major Mandi Legerski; senior biology major Cynthea Roque, with her escort freshman civil engineering major Nyla Contreras; senior kinesiology major Emily Saldivar, with her escort sophomore environmental law major Kate Van Wormer, senior broadcast journalism major Taylor Fukunaga, with her escort junior business administration major Jocelyn Flores. The two Court of Leos royalty winners will be announced at 1 p.m. Saturday on the steps of Miller Hall during the Homecoming street fair.

HAPPENINGS

'Light, Shadow, and Legacy'

The Irene Carlson Gallery presents an exhibition from the ULV photo department alumni. The "Light, Shadow, and Legacy" exhibit is in coordination with the homecoming festivities. It runs until Dec. 12. The gallery is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

'Halloween Choral Concert'

The music department choir will present the "Halloween Choral Concert" at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 in Morgan Auditorium. Tickets are free for students and $20 for everyone else.

'Material Worlds'

"Material Worlds," art exhibit featuring works from Alycia Anthony, Adam Belt, Albert Contreras, David Allan Peters and Zemer Peled, in the Harris Gallery until Oct. 9. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information visit **laverne.edu/event/harris-gallery-presents-material-worlds.**

'Studio Focus–COLOR!'

"Studio Focus–COLOR!" art exhibit features acrylic paintings made by students in ART 360 from the spring 2025. Works from Aidan Catullo, Vanessa Cruz, Ariadne Gamboa, Julia Luera, Alicia Naranjo, Natalia Ortiz, Jasmine Vazquez, are in the West Gallery on campus until Dec. 1. Gallery is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information visit **artsci.laverne.edu/art/exhibition/studio-focus-color.**

'In Context'

'In Context' is a film seminar series intended to help students develop awareness of their environment and politics. The series is at 7 p.m. every Friday in ACB 212. The next film will be "Hotel Rwanda" on Oct. 10.

—Jordan Alcasas

New director embraces Community spirit

story and photography by Marina Bravo



Clarissa Shan, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities and vocal studies, directs the University Chamber Singers during a rehearsal Monday in Morgan Auditorium. Each member of the group is there by audition and performs in recitals and events throughout the year, including a trip to Germany.

Diversity and community are two of the most important things that Clarissa Shan has brought and utilized as she has embarked on her new journey as choir director at the University.

Before coming to the University, Shan taught for 10 years, and made a commitment to use her voice to spread community and welcome diversity everywhere she goes.

She has been involved in music since childhood, beginning with piano, though she always loved singing.

"(Singing) really became my passion when I was in junior high," Shan said. "It wasn't until I was a junior in undergrad that I made the switch to voice."

Shan earned a doctorate in musical arts and vocal performance, specializing in opera, from the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music.

Shan teaches musical theater, pop, rock and belt styles; all areas she is specialized in.

Outside of the classroom, Shan's love of music shines in everything she does.

Shan was featured in the Grammy-winning Deutsche Gramophone recording of "Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 8" with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel in 2019.

She is the director of music at the Glendale Church, while also serving as a clinician in Los Angeles and Orange County, working at local high schools and festivals.

When not teaching or performing, Shan enjoys spending time with her family, especially her husband, Drew Lewis, who is a high school choir director.

Prior to starting at La Verne, Shan taught at Concordia University Irvine.

Happy in her new gig here, she said the University's core values, particularly diversity and inclusivity, resonated with her.

"I am always one for diverse music," Shan said. "Growing up Chinese-American, my education didn't reflect who I was."

She quickly felt connected to the students here, she said. She hopes to encourage them to celebrate their own diversity.

"It is really important that we see who we are in our art," Shan said.

Shan's approach has already had an impact.

"I am just really glad that we have this kind of support," said Angelina Alvarez, senior psychology major and president of the Choir Council.

"It's nice knowing that there's someone keeping us students in mind."

"I look forward to every class session with Dr. Shan," added Alexander Gomez, senior music major and University Chorale and Chamber Singers member.

"I feel welcome in the environment I'm singing in and I am confident that with her guidance I can be the best."

Shan shared how one of her main goals she has for this year is to create connections with the nearby high schools and invite them to participate in choir shows at the University.

For the upcoming Christmas recital, she has invited San Dimas High School to join the University Chorale to sing some pieces, as an opportunity for high school students to experience a university campus.

"We are very excited to have her on board," said Grace Zhao, professor of music and music department chair. "As a music department we pride ourselves in creating community and bringing diversity, and Dr. Shan does just that."

Outside the University, Shan also takes community building to the international level. She is program director for the Musik Theater Bavaria, an opera and musical theater summer performance program in Oberaudorf, Germany.

The University the Chamber Singers often travels internationally. Music department chair Grace Zhao hopes that Shan may connect the two.

"Through private donors we are able to take the Chamber Singer students to perform in Europe every year," Zhao said.

"We are excited to see if she could bring the two together and create a whole new experience for our students."

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

BSU karaoke brings music and fun

The Black Student Union hosted its first karaoke night of the semester with free food and prizes on Sept. 25 in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room.

Roughly 40 students attended the event.

Stacey Strickland, adjunct instructor of dance and BSU advisor, said they chose karaoke because it brings people together.

"One thing that we believe in within the African-American culture is that music is a strong foundation and a way for us to commune and to connect," Strickland said.

BSU created this event at this time to give students a break from midterm stress and an opportunity for all to de-stress on campus.

The room was decorated with balloons shaped as music notes and was lit up with disco lights.

WingStop, chips, pizza and Gatorade were among the refreshments.

Along with Strickland, Shane Williams, BSU president and junior psychology major, and the other BSU members organized the event, which also included games, such as a challenge where singers had to remember the lyrics to a song as it played, and Jeopardy!

Participants could pick up free BSU apparel. And karaoke performers won prizes including bluetooth headphones and more. First-place karaoke winners won tickets to the "Dear Beloved" tour featuring GIVEON.

"Even though it's called Black Student Union, we want to welcome all races, not just black students," said BSU president Shane Williams, junior psychology major. "We want to make a safe environment for everybody so they can have fun."

The Black Student Union strives to make African American students on campus feel included and know they have a voice.

—Donya Rouzbehi

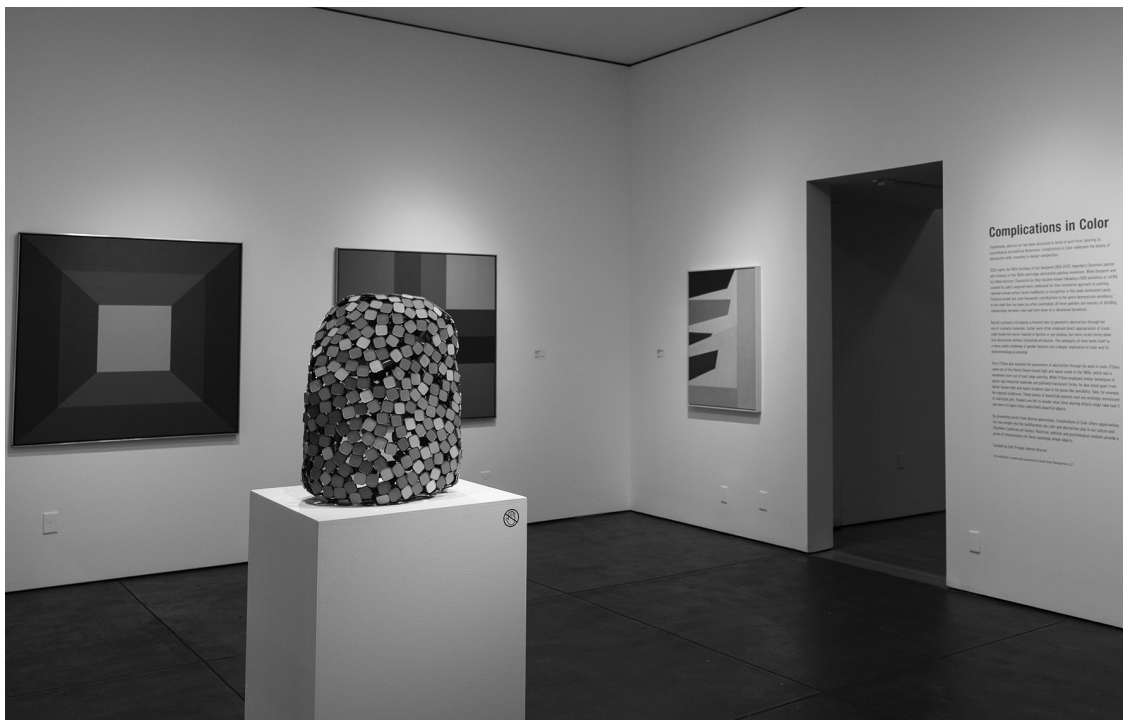


Lexi Giacobbe

Students celebrate a win in one of the various games at the Black Student Union Karaoke Night Sept. 25 in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room. There were performances for prizes, food and swag at the event designed as a creative, musical outlet to stave off midterm stress. The BSU strives to create community for Black students and welcomes all to its events.

Abstract art takes political meaning

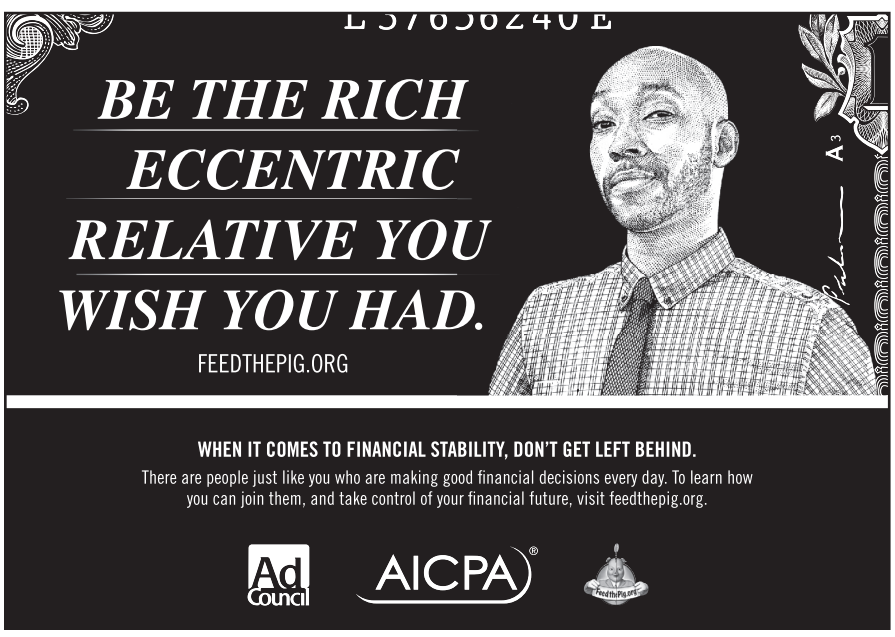


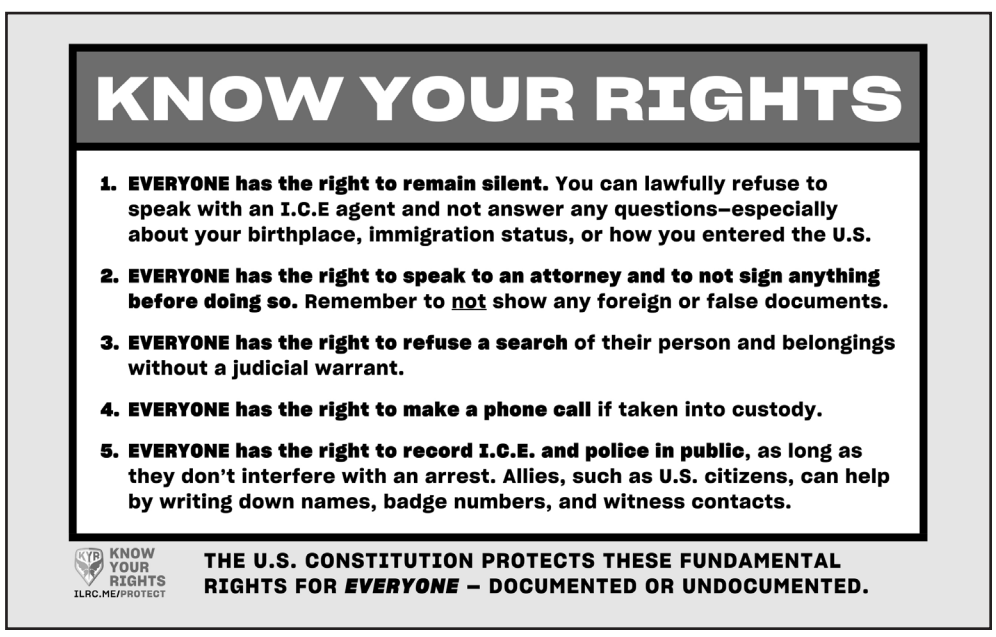


Left: The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art displays works by Karl Benjamin and Rachel Lachowicz in the exhibition "Complications in Color" to celebrate the beauty of abstraction. The show marks Benjamin's 100th birthday and highlights how artists explore complexity in color and form. The exhibit runs through Nov. 16.

Above: Rachel Lachowicz's piece "Truncated," made of eyeshadow and aluminum, is part of the "Complications in Color" exhibition at the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art. Her work layers political meaning onto the perceived purity of abstraction by using unconventional materials to challenge ideas of abstraction.

photography by Rylee Fournier





Track coach gets world experience

Jordan Alcasas
News Editor



Baljot Rathor

Track and field head coach Kevin Reid recently served as part of the Team USA coaching staff for the 2025 World Track and Field Championships in Tokyo. He has also previously coached at the World Indoor Championships, World Junior Championships and Pan American Games. Reid has been head coach of the La Verne track and field team since 2017.

Track and field head coach Kevin Reid recently went to Tokyo for the World Track and Field Championships as an assistant coach.

The championships ran from Sept. 13-21, hosted by World Athletics. Reid's primary job at the championships was to assist coaches in taking their athletes through the championship level of athletics.

"Kind of off this trip, I had a chance to work with a good amount of athletes, but I also got to work with their coaches," Reid said. "I enjoyed coaching the coaches. If their personal coaches are there, I don't do much but make sure they have access to their personal coaches."

Reid said that a few of the coaches were on the younger side, and as such were only there for their first time.

In contrast, Reid has been to the championships twice beforehand, once in 2022 as an assistant coach, and in 2023 as head coach.

He has also previously coached at the World Indoor Track and Field Championships, the World Junior Championships and the Pan American Games.

One of his primary jobs at the championships was to help guide those coaches.

He would provide new strategies for dealing with the pressure of such a high level of competition.

He also spent time helping coaches to work on scheduling or in hammering out the small details, but he made sure not to overstep his boundaries.

"They've coached their way up to that level, and they've not necessarily been there in the past, but they know those athletes best," Reid said. "They know how they process and whatnot. I wanted to give them different ways of doing things depending on the situation."

He said one of the biggest goals he had was to help coaches with processing the experience. Regardless of outcome, coaching at such a high level of competition can steer how someone thinks.

"More often than not, they're on the medal hunt, and rightly so," Reid said. "There is a big focus on the athletes' mental health and working with them on getting through those situations. …There's dealing with the pressure of potential success and at the same time, there are a couple of these convos as well, getting them to process disappointment."

Reid has been at the championships at both levels of coaching, and as such has bigger insight into how to help coaches at the championships.

"It's fun and sometimes even easy if you're adjacent to a medal, but it's a different process to go through if things didn't go as you expected at the championships," Reid said.

Reid began working at the University of La Verne in 2017 as the head coach for the track and field team.

"I think it shows the level of coaches we have in our athletic department," Anthony Avila, assistant athletic director at La Verne, said. "I also think it's enticing to athletes that they will get coached by someone who has experience coaching at the international level."

Jordan Alcasas can be reached at ***jordan.alcasas@laverne.edu***.

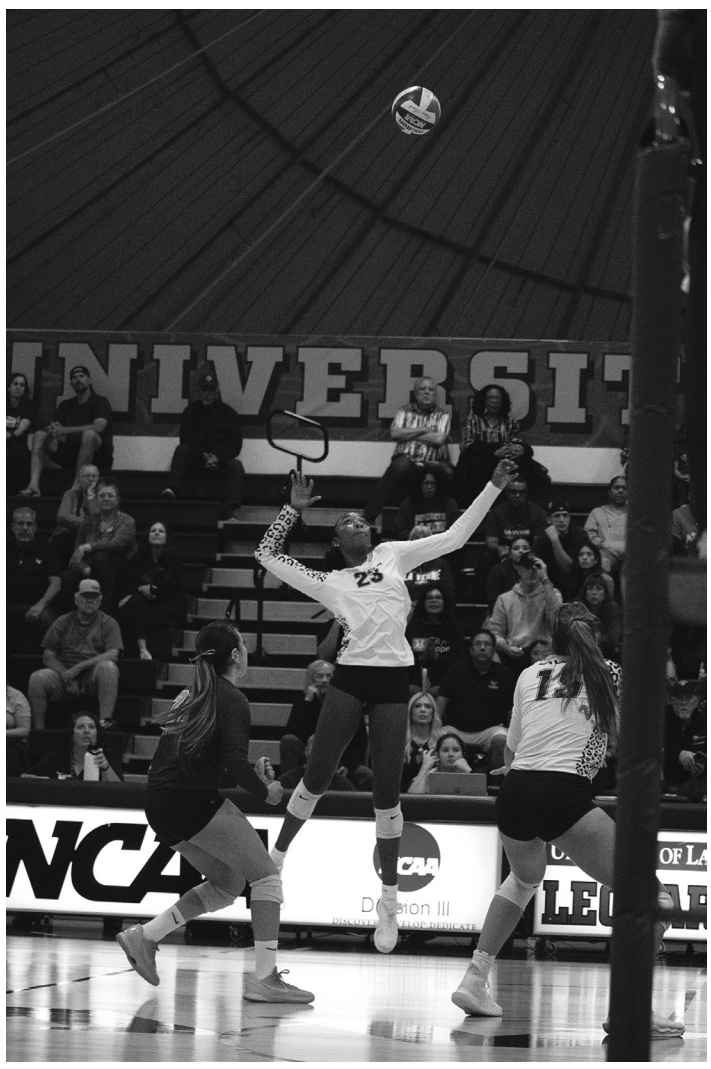
Women's soccer ties with Whittier



Jesse Juarez

Whittier freshman defender Logan Bays and La Verne junior defender Maren Handel battle for the ball Wednesday at Ortmayer Stadium. The Leopards ended the game in a tie, 0-0. Their record is 0-6-4 overall and 0-2-3 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Volleyball maintains winning streak



Aaliyah Alamillo

La Verne senior outside hitter Mya Ray goes up for a spike Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court against Pomona-Pitzer. Ray racked up 25 kills, two digs, three blocks and one assist to help the Leopards beat the Sagehens.

Sagehens wash the Leopards away

Water polo loses SCIAC opener

Karina Rodriguez
Sports Editor

The men's water polo team started off its Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference season with a loss against the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens, 20-11, Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center.

Head coach Robert Echeverria said he believed the team played well despite their disadvantage, as Pomona-Pitzer has almost twice as many players as La Verne.

La Verne has 18 players on its team and Pomona-Pitzer has 35 players on its team.

"I think when you're playing a team like Pomona-Pitzer that has 35 guys on the roster, all at the same level, it's definitely a challenge," Echeverria said. "But you know, no excuses."

Echeverria said Pomona-Pitzer wearing down the La Verne players contributed to the loss.

"I think where we kind of struggled was when they started to rotate different lines and just kind of wear us down and then as fatigue kicked in, we started to make some weird choices," Echeverria said.

The Leopards began strong with three goals at the beginning of the first quarter.

Junior utility player Timothy Robles gave La Verne its first goal at 7:40 in the first quarter.

Robles scored two goals for ULV in the first quarter, but has his eye on improving the team's defense..

"I think we just got to clean up a lot of things of defense and bad passes and stuff like that," Robles said.

After Robles' second goal, Pomona-Pitzer made six consecutive goals.

Junior goalkeeper Henry De Luna felt that while his team did work hard to defend the cage, he thinks that once La Verne can control the opposing team's drives, it'll put them in a stronger position.

"I think just being able to stop getting beat on drives," De Luna said.

"I think we had a lot of exclusions which fed a lot into the other team as to why they were able to score so many goals."

De Luna had 12 saves, including a penalty shot.

La Verne scored twice in the second quarter – a goal by sophomore center defender Vaughn Freiermuth and a penalty goal by junior utility player Josh Lamberton.

The first half ended with the Sagehens up, 10-6.

During the third quarter, junior utility player Zachariah Barclay scored an advantage goal, narrowing the gap to 10-7.

Lamberton scored two more goals for La Verne during the third quarter.

Pomona-Pitzer scored five consecutive goals to end the third quarter, 16-9.

The fourth quarter started off with another goal by Freiermuth to bring the score up 16-10.

Four consecutive goals by Pomona-Pitzer widened the gap to 20-10.

Lamberton made the final goal of the game to bring the final score 20-11.

Lamberton, who scored five goals during the game.

"My offense was pretty good but I do need to keep my head up while swimming. Some of my teammates need help and if I am swimming with my head down then I can't really help them," Lamberton said.

After beating Caltech, 18-11, on Wednesday, the team is 6-6 overall and 1-1 in SCIAC.

The Leopards compete in the Gary Troyer Tournament in Orange and Los Angeles on Friday and Saturday, with games against Fresno Pacific, Ottawa-Arizona, Augustana and UC Merced.

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Antonio Ceniceros

La Verne junior attacker Jordan Baker takes the match out of the water as he strives to make a goal on Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center, while Pomona-Pitzer sophomore center Darragh Flanders goes to block. After Baker's performance of one goal and four assists, the match ended in a 20-11 loss for the Leopards. This is La Verne's first SCIAC match of the season.

LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Football, September 27
La Verne - 6
Chapman - 56

Volleyball, September 30
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps - 0
La Verne - 3

Women's Soccer, October 1
Whittier - 0
La Verne - 0

Men's Water Polo, October 1
Caltech - 11
La Verne - 18

Men's Soccer, October 1
Whittier - 2
La Verne - 1

SCHEDULE

Friday
Men's water polo vs. Fresno Pacific @ Gary Troyer Tournament @ Orange, 12:15 p.m.
Men's water polo vs. Ottawa-Arizona @ Gary Troyer Tournament @ Orange, 4 p.m.
Volleyball vs. Cal Lutheran, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Men's water polo vs. Augustana @ Gary Troyer Tournament @ Los Angeles, 9 a.m.
Men's water polo vs. UC Merced @ Gary Troyer Tournament @ Los Angeles, 2 p.m.
Women's soccer vs. Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 11 a.m.
Football vs. Pomona-Pitzer, 4 p.m.
Men's soccer @ Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 7 p.m.

Monday
Men's golf @ The Masters University Classic, all day

MEN'S WATER POLO STANDINGS

	Overall	SCIAC
Pomona-Pitzer	3-0	7-5
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps	1-0	7-3
Chapman	1-0	3-7
Redlands	1-0	3-11
Whittier	1-1	8-4
La Verne	**1-1**	**3-3**
Cal Lutheran	0-1	3-6
Caltech	0-3	3-9
Occidental	0-2	2-13