Campus Times

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Women still the minority in STEM

Teaching approaches favor men

Olivia Russo
LV Life Editor



Mia Byington

Aileen Niesta, junior physics major; Natalia Nagrete, senior math major; and Casey Griffin, assistant professor mathematics and Math Club advisor, have a discussion during their meeting Monday. Activities during the meeting included playing Kahoot, structure making with pasta noodles and marshmallows and catered food from Wingstop.

The professor asks a question to his computer science class and hands shoot up, including Abbygail Siapno, a freshman math and physics major and member of Women in Tech. Like always, the person picked to answer the question is not her, but one of her male classmates, and that is how it will remain for the duration of the class; which is a trend of STEM classes.

In extracurricular activities, a group gets together for a programming project, however with little experience a man gets the role of lead programmer despite Shiza Yasar, a freshman computer science major, the only woman on the team having more qualifications than everyone else.

Hailee Hewton as a freshman joined the Tech Club at the University of La Verne and later found out that she could not even get a word out while the men were discussing their harder classes, because they are older than her.

Whenever she had a question, she could only resort to the president, who was a woman, because at least she would be heard.

"A lot of the time, it was definitely underestimating me," Hewton, president of the Women in Tech club and senior information technology major, said. "Other times it was underestimating me when I did know and other times it was knocking me down when I didn't know. So there was no room. If the guy next to me didn't know, he would just get taught, if I didn't know it because I didn't deserve to be there."

That ostracization led to finding community with other women in science, engineering, technology and math, or STEM fields. The Campus Clubs like Women in Tech and Women in Physics – and their partnership with the female-led Math Club – opened for these women to find the community that they longed for and support future women entering in the field.

"I think it's really important and I think it's powerful we're here if we're showing girls like us, who look like us, who dress like us, who act like us, can do difficult masculine things," said Annika Koons, math major and president of the Math Club. "We can show people that they can do what we do,"

According to the American Institute of Physics, women made up 25% of the graduates with a bachelors in physics in 2023.

In 2025 the World Economic Forum found that women only made up for 28.2% of the STEM global workforce.

For many reasons women are not seen at the forefront of many STEM fields or even in their majors because the college curriculum has been systematically set up to support men.

In assistant professor of math Casey Griffin's research, she explains that women and men have different learning styles, but colleges and universities tend to favor the male dominated style. Griffin, who is advisor to the math club, said colleges were originally created for men – specifically white men – to receive a higher education.

And the structure of the class would be a lecture with little to no hands-on experiences. This style is individualistic and competitive, traits that pervade modern-day STEM fields and workplaces.

But the style that works best for women is active learning, where there is more collaboration, project-based study and teamwork.

"Group work is a big way to incorporate active learning in the classroom," Griffin said.

"One thing that's really a big factor that contributes to the sense of belonging, especially women's sense of belonging, is the idea of feeling socially connected with the classmates in the class and as well as with the instructor."

These experiences have changed the way that students learn in their classes. In Griffin's study she concluded that 88% of women who learned via active learning felt more included in their classes – but until most schools adopt these teaching styles, women may not have their sense of belonging or willingness to continue.

"Being the only woman in the room, sometimes you start to doubt yourself," said Vanessa Preisler, professor of physics and advisor for the Women in Physics club, who reflected on her experience when she was a student.

"One day in class, the professor was asking questions and my classmates were answering and I was like 'I don't know the answer.' So I was thinking 'well, maybe it's because I'm a woman because everybody around me was a man.'"

Preisler said that women may find it difficult to continue in the field without good role models or experiences. She sought out female professors and mentors to seek extra opportunities with because they understood each other.

As of 2021, 23% of bachelor's degrees went to women in physics, 24% of master's degrees and 21% of doctoral degrees, but overall women make up the lowest percentages for women in STEM fields.

"I grew up in Louisiana and that was some time ago," said Christine Broussard, professor of biology.

"It wasn't a very supportive environment for women, for any field, not just STEM. But I was really lucky because I had teachers in high school who recognized that I had some affinity, interest, and talent in the sciences."

Some other reasons women may not feel a sense of belonging is due to their home and family life, or the cultural or religious values that they have been born into.

"For me, growing up, there's been a lot of traditional values that were pushed onto me," said Abigail Ampong, junior biology major and secretary of the Math Club.

"But having women in STEM just shows up for so much more than just being mothers or wives. We have so much to offer, we're so resilient. We can do just as much of the things that men can do."

With the new approach to teaching and training that University of La Verne is implementing, underrepresented groups in STEM fields may have

Continued on page 10

On the Cover

La Verne residents Jodi Buckley and Elizabeth Sanchez walk the course of the Homecoming 5k race with their two dogs Saturday morning. The 5k kicked off a full day of Homecoming festivities, which included a street fair, parade, alumni reunions and Preview Day for potential students which was a campus tour and club and department pop-ups. The crowning of Homecoming Leopard Royalty and football game followed. / photo by CC Flaherty

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Bekhor brings legal aid to Pomona

Food bank integrates services

Alexander Hernandez
Staff Writer



Jesse Juarez

Carolyn Bekhor, professor of legal studies, discusses her "Lessons from Sabbatical in Legal Aid and Paralegal Education Scholarship," Tuesday in the Quay Davis Executive Boardroom. During her sabbatical, Bekhor helped to organize bring the legal services to God's Pantry, which was started by people who were formally incarcerated.

Carolyn Bekhor, department chair and professor of legal studies, spent her spring 2025 sabbatical bringing free legal assistance to Pomona's needy and revamping a journal for legal professionals and educators.

Bekhor discussed her projects Tuesday in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room, before an audience of about 15, with additional participants via Zoom.

Her talk, part of the faculty lecture series, was titled "Lessons from Sabbatical in Legal Aid and Paralegal Education Scholarship," focused on Bekhor's two projects during her spring 2025 sabbatical.

"It is part of our mission to see how legal studies and paralegal programs help our community," Bekhor said.

Bekhor's first project was the operation of a legal aid clinic inside Pomona's God's Pantry food bank.

In addition to food assistance, God's Pantry supports those who need help to navigate social and legal concerns, barriers to employment and more.

Bekhor worked with a team of students who met with trainees at the facility.

Bekhor gave free legal assistance to those who came in, and she also hosted monthly workshops for all trainees, which included seminars on navigating child custody, tenants' rights, bankruptcy and more.

"When you are struggling to get to the courthouse, it can be a step too far," Bekhor said.

Embedding this in God's Pantry simplifies the process.

Bekhor secured a small Care First Community Investment grant via Los Angeles County to support this work.

"We operated this clinic on a shoestring," Bekhor said. "We used free legal sources to help ourselves (and) help trainees."

"It's invaluable that instead of a centralized bank of legal aid ... to decenter it and have smaller places, especially for people who are suffering," said Judy Holiday, professor of rhetoric and communication studies, who attended the lecture.

Bekhor's second sabbatical project involved becoming editor-in-chief of the new Journal of Paralegal Education and Practice, formerly known as the Legal Educator, which publishes scholarly articles in the legal field.

Bekhor hopes to take this journal in a new direction as she invites educators and legal practitioners from various academic backgrounds to share their entries.

"Initiatives like the ones that were presented encapsulate one of our core values, community engagement," said Giacomo Laffranchini, professor of management. "From that standpoint, this is an inspiration for other faculty, for students."

"She brings that experience into her teaching," said Soomi Lee, professor of public administration. "What makes her really stand out … is her dedication to students and to connecting and learning with service."

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Job fair connects students to future employers

Kalayah Frazier
Staff Writer

The fall internship and job fair, hosted by the Academic and Career Services Office, was held Wednesday at the Campus Center.

The event included various local businesses looking to hire interns and entry level employees in fields including health, public utilities and business management.

About 40 students attended the event.

Students who attended got a small card that they could turn in for a Raising Cane's meal and desserts if they stopped by three different tables.

One of the employers was Sarah Bailey, an operations manager at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders.

"We look for people that have interest in working with kids and also patience," Bailey said.

Another employer was Jason Lara, utilities supervisor for the sewer and storm drain system in Upland's Public Works Department.

Lara emphasized the importance of maintaining the city's structures and ensuring that sewer lines function properly and prevent overflows.

A representative from Enterprise car rental company was also on hand, looking for the right applicants for its management training program Enterprise Mobility.

"(Enterprise has) a very entrepreneurial mindset that teaches people how to run a business from the ground up," Amanda McGinnis, talent acquisition manager for Enterprise Mobility, said.

Students who attended appreciated the FaceTime with potential employers.

Brooklyn Clark, sophomore economics major, said that most of the job options offered were not of interest to her, she was drawn to the autism and disabilities job opportunity because she loves working with kids.

"I did have a good experience today checking out new job opportunities because although I'm in my second year, it's never too early to get a head start," Clark said.

"It's always nice to come out and meet new people and connect with new people when they do the different types of fairs like this one or career fairs in general," said Maddison Silva, junior digital media major.



Kyla Stubbs

Sarah Bailey and Laura Ruiz, representatives from the Center for Autism and Related Disorders, discuss their organization with junior biology major Abigail Ampong at the Internship and Job Fair on Wednesday in the Campus Center. This event was sponsored by the Academic and Career Services Office to get students interested in new job and internship opportunities.

She said was specifically interested in non-profit work and using her social media skills.

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International foods at tasting event

Olivia Russo
LV Life Editor

To kick off Homecoming Weekend, the Office of Alumni Engagement created the Taste of ULV for alumni to gather together and reminisce about their times at the University while also celebrating all the different places students and faculty come from.

The Taste of ULV took place Oct. 3 at Citrus Lawn with about 75 people in attendance.

The lawn was decorated with tables for both standing and sitting, outdoor string lights and a white fence closing off the area to those not part of the event. A DJ was playing a mix of older and modern music throughout the evening.

Along the sides of the lawn, there were tables of food and mini bars for different types of alcoholic beverages.

Each table had food from a different culture and a wine to pair, as well as a dessert platter and a charcuterie board.

"We have designed this evening to kind of represent the diversity that's represented in the University through the different stations of food from different places our students come from," Risa Dickson, university president, said during the opening remarks.

The cultures picked represented some of the top study abroad destinations, including Italy and Japan and the top countries international students come from like China, India and Qatar.

To celebrate the University of La Verne being a Hispanic Serving Institution, a table was set up for foods from different Latin American countries.

The food was a pull for a lot of the alumni attending the event, including Charlene King, an alumna from 1987, who said it was one of the best parts about attending, but also shared her emotional attachment to the school.

"It's rare for me to miss anything and they're serving wine," King said.

"I love these people and I always say the school saved my life. I'm extremely attached."

Alumni from across all years attended the event, with some more recent than others, including the former president of the Alumni Advisory Board and alumna of 2016, Stephanie Hancock.

"I think it's a way for all of us to still have an impact," Hancock said.

"We come back and we can pour into the current students. We can pour into the staff and just always let them know how much we appreciate them."

What was the most prevalent feeling throughout the night was the sense of community everyone had together, many alumni had other family members attend the University, as well as reconnecting with one another that they had not seen in a while.



Joseph Nocero

Senior kinesiology major Johnathan Saldivar and alumna Aolani Miranda enjoy wine and snacks at the Taste of ULV event at Citrus Lawn on Oct. 3. The wines were donated by Packing House Wines in Claremont. The appetizers were provided by University of La Verne's very own Bon Appétit.

Including that of Ofelia Lopez and Christine Camacho, who both graduated in 2014 for their undergraduate, but met up at the Taste of ULV after a while since their time together.

Both Lopez and Camacho were very involved during their time at the University, sharing they joined the same sorority at the same time and always tried to catch up with fellow classmates at the Davenport Dining Hall.

"I used to live in StuHan before it was demolished and I loved it," Lopez said.

"It was great. I think I loved the fact that it built a community within the halls…and I think I'm always going to have that forever."

The community that Lopez felt also left a lasting impression on Camacho as well, who did not live on campus while she was a student, but still felt included during her experience.

"My favorite memory is Barb's," Camacho said.

"It was cool that it was a special place where I could run into my sorority sisters and the athletes."

Most of the guests likened the event to a family reunion.

"Homecoming is my absolutely most favorite time of the year," Julie Wheeler, alumna of 1986, said.

"I say it's better than Christmas because I get to see old friends and new friends and just hang out."

Olivia Russo can be reached at ***olivia.russo@laverne.edu.***

Cal Poly Pomona Pumpkin Patch





Above: Visitors stroll through rows of pumpkins at the Cal Poly Pomona Pumpkin Patch on Saturday. The annual event draws families and locals for fall activities and festivities.

Right: Rich Biggs, a retired Upland resident, showcases his unique cigar box guitars at the Cal Poly Pomona Pumpkin Patch on Saturday. Built from cigar boxes and other recycled materials, his handcrafted instruments caught the eye of many visitors. His unique instruments are featured on his Instagram, @cigarboxrich.

photography by Baljot Rathor

Pumpkin patch offers family fun

The annual Heritage Park Pumpkin Patch – offering a festive field of pumpkins in various colors, sizes and shapes – kicked off last weekend.

The historic park, home to one of the area's original orange groves, was transformed into a picturesque celebration of the season.

Families came out Saturday to see the pumpkins, take a hay ride, enjoy the petting zoo, and take advantage of photo ops.

Flor Perez, was among the visitors, attending the patch for the first time with her 5-year-old son Ezekiel.

"I think kids should come here so they can pick pumpkins for Halloween," Ezekiel said.

Prices for the pumpkins varied according to size.

Hay rides wove through the old groves of oranges.

The annual pumpkin patch is made possible via collaboration of the Heritage Foundation and many volunteers, including students at Bonita High School and Damien High School, and La Verne firefighters.

There is no fee to visit the pumpkin patch.

Entrance to the petting zoo, and hay rides are each $3 per guest.

The Patch will be open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through the month of October.

Heritage Park is at 5001 Vía De Mansion in La Verne.

—Rubbie Chavez



Amore Mason

Community members aboard the tractor to ride around the Heritage Park property on Oct. 3. The ride was part of the park's pumpkin patch, which is open Fridays through Sundays until Oct. 26.



Amore Mason

A scarecrow welcomes visitors at the Heritage Park Pumpkin Patch in La Verne on Oct. 3. The pumpkin patch featured a variety of pumpkins, a petting zoo and tractor rides for children and families.

Students de-stress over poke and açaí bowls

Marina Bravo
Arts Editor

With Fall Break just a week away, the Glo and Grow event sponsored by the Campus Activities Board was a health and wellness focused break for students to de-stress from midterms and more.

From noon till 2 p.m. Monday on Citrus Lawn, students were hung out and got to take part in the event's various free food options, giveaways and activities.

About 50 students in all attended.

With poke bowls, açaí bowls, midterm survival kits and a photo booth, students could choose healthy food options and capture memories with friends.

Alejandra Muratalla, junior business administration major and health and wellness chair for CAB, said she wanted the event to be a refreshing break to hang out.

"It's the week before fall break, and I wanted to create a space where students could come and listen to music and enjoy time with friends outside of a classroom setting." Muratalla said.

CAB events, Muratalla said, are uniquely created by each member and reflect their personalities and aesthetics.

"These events always have something going on," Muratalla said. "Especially all kinds of freebies."

"Our main purpose and goal is to create events that aren't academic related," said Abby Branaman, freshman computer science major and CAB member.

"We want to bring that work-life balance."

"It feels really good to be paid attention to," said freshman Maria Sanchez, who attended Glo and Grow.

"I also love the fact that these events are open to everyone," Sanchez added.

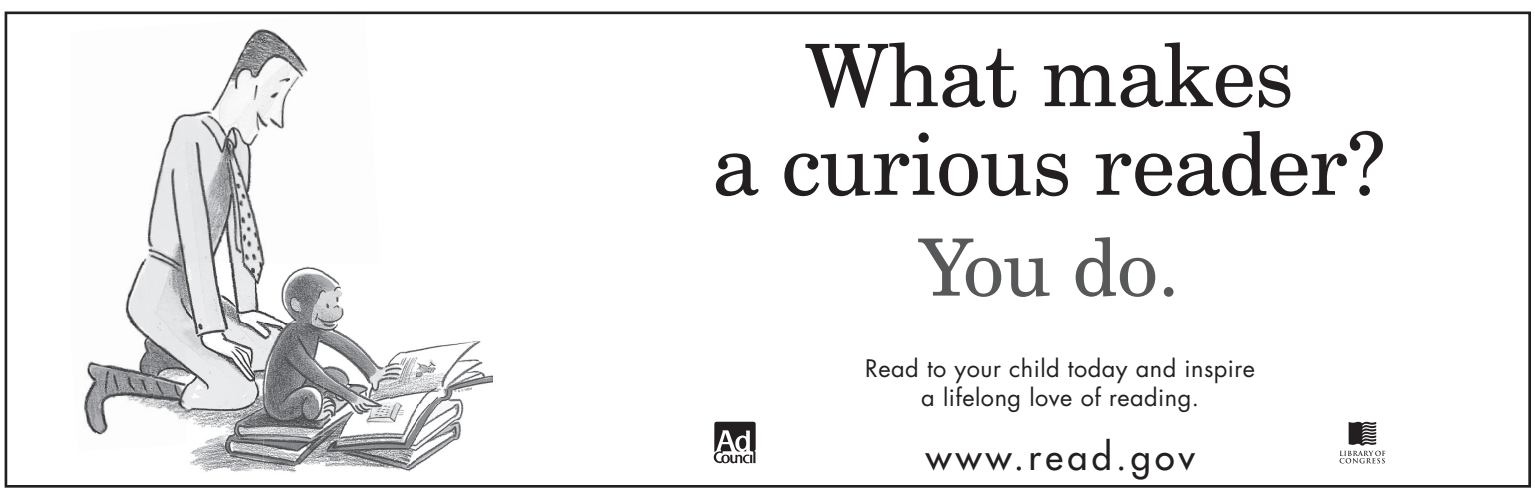
"I don't like raw fish, so I was excited to see that they had açai bowls," said Harmony Rocha, freshman education major.

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



Marina Bravo

The Munchie Spot prepares a poke bowl at the Glo and Grow event Monday on Citrus Lawn, put on by the Campus Activities Board. It had a main focus on health and wellness and was offered as a de-stresser for students before their upcoming midterms.



Homecoming stretches across entire campus

La Verne celebrates alumni

Margaret Contreras
Editor-in-Chief

The University's annual homecoming festivities began with a 5K run at 8 a.m. on Saturday that started on the Citrus Lawn, next was the street fair on C and Second streets in front of the Campus Center, then the Mission Brewing pre-game party at 2:30 p.m. in the Quad. The evening ended with the Homecoming football game

The 5K run kicked off Saturday's Homecoming celebration. Families of alumni and current students participated. The price was $15, organized by the Phi Epsilon Kappa. The route started on Third Street to Second Street to Park Avenue then Bonita Avenue to White Avenue, back to Second Street then the final stretch was Third Street.

The first place winner of the 5k was Kevin Torres, a senior from Mark Keppel High School, with the time of 21:09.

"I was really nervous about the whole thing, but seeing it now and it's all coming to an end I'm really excited.," president of Phi Epsilon Kappa and senior biology major Eraci Hame said.

"Finding out that the first place runner was a senior in high school was shocking. But it's great to see families have a good time. I even have my cousin running in the 5k."

Women's soccer had a match against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps at 11 a.m, in which the Leopards lost, 1-0.

The street fair started at 11:30 p.m. and ended at 2:30 p.m. on C and Second streets. The booths included vendors, student clubs, the Magic Makers Mart and academic programs. This was the first year they decided to do preview day within the fair.

Each booth had decorations that went with the fantasy theme of Homecoming. Some booths had activities for guests to win prizes, like spin the wheel or throw a football.

"A lot of people were asking about preview days," Brandon Stanley, advancement services specialist, said. "It seems like it was a success. I always have a good time at Homecoming and it seems like everyone else does too."

At Sneaky Park they had the Leo Carnival, including a petting zoo, carnival games and refreshments. A booth from one of the sponsors, Lucky's Coffee, serving ice and hot coffees and tea, and pastries.

The information booth and the tote bags, which had to be RSVP'd, were in front of the entrance of the Campus Center.

At 1 p.m. was when the Leo Royalty were announced on the steps of Miller Hall. The court was introduced, senior biology major Alaa Shilleh, senior biology Alec Maxwell, senior biology major Cynthea Roque, senior kinesiology major Emily Saldivar and senior broadcast journalism major Taylor Fukunaga.

In the spirit of the theme of Homecoming the wizard handed the scroll to each court member and the ones that shimmered in the sunlight were the ones crowned. Winners were Shilleh and Maxwell.

"I am so happy," Shilleh said. "I was definitely nervous, but now I am just so excited."

Shilleh discussed how other students can be nominated to the Court of Leos and then be elected to be a Leo Royalty.

"Basically get involved. I feel like La Verne is a small school. You can really, like, make-or-break your experience with how you are, and I feel like getting involved is really, like, the way to have fun here."

The float parade commenced right after the crowing. Each float was made by the sororities and fraternities. The new Leo Royalty walking and the President Risa Dickson riding on a classic fire truck down Second Street.

After the street fair, Leo Carnival and parade, the Mission Brewing Pre-Game Party from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on The Quad. There was live music, food, non alcoholic drinks and beer. Mission Brewing had three stations for beer.



Aaliyah Alamillo

Near the Lewis Center there was a stage with a live band playing popular pop and country songs. There was a section for picnic type games including cornhole, ringtoss and axe throwing.

"We love Homecoming," class of 2024 alumna biology major Lauren Kostich said. "We come here every year. The petting zoo and live band is a nice addition to the event this year."

Food selection options were hotdogs, pretzels, pizza and Charley's Cheesesteaks, one of the sponsors of the event.

The kickoff of the Homecoming football game was at 4 p.m. at Ortmayer Stadium. La Verne lost against Pomona-Pitzer, 34-12. Tickets for the game were for purchases at the gate for $10.

"(Homecoming) is good for everyone of all ages," Kostich said. "It represents the school really well, it's very family oriented."

Margaret Contreras can be reached at ***margaret.contreras@laverne.edu***.

(Clockwise from above): Cheer squad members freshman psychology major Ireland Oring, sophomore criminology major Raquel Bojorquez, sophomore biology major Sarah Saucedo, sophomore criminology major Justin Castaneda and junior undeclared major Mia Lozano gather around to take a photo in Sneaky Park at the Homecoming Street Fair on Saturday. The cheer booth featured a game and a chance to get to know the team.

The La Verne community gathers around different booths on C Street at the Homecoming Street Fair on Saturday. The fair offered activities, free items and food, followed by a parade and a football game.

The top finishers of the morning's Homecoming 5k run were alumnus George Raptus, alumnus Faust Obeso, Mark Keppel High School senior Kevin Torres, La Verne resident Alyssa Guerrero, Corona Del Mar high school senior Reestyn Boucher and La Verne resident Cindy Gonzalez. Each of the top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions were awarded medals.

Broadcast Operations Manager Shane Rodrigues enjoys some cotton candy in Sneaky Park at the Homecoming Street Fair on Saturday. Rodrigues gathered videos of the different activities happening.

The ULV dance team performs at halftime of the Homecoming football game Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium. A packed crowd of students, parents and alumni watched the Leopards lose to Pomona-Pitzer, 34-12.



Aaliyah Alamillo



CC Flaherty



Aaliyah Alamillo



CC Flaherty

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Arts, *etc...*

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 will run 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, is on display in the Harris Gallery on campus 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 by students in ART 360 from the spring 2025. The works from Aidan Catullo, Vanessa Cruz, Ariadne Gamboa, Julia Luera, Alicia Naranjo, Natalia Ortiz, Jasmine Vazquez, are on display in the West Gallery on campus until Dec. 1. The 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.

—Jordan Alcasas

Alumni's exhibit features

Light and legacy

by Donya Rouzbehi

photography by Mia Byington



Fred Brashear, professor of photography, and Gerard Lavatori, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, talk Oct. 2 at the Irene Carlson Gallery in Miller Hall for the opening reception of the photography program alumni show, in honor of Homecoming, "Light, Shadow and Legacy." The show features work from nine alumni and runs until Dec. 12. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

The "Light, Shadow and Legacy" exhibit opened earlier this month, with a reception Oct. 2, in the Irene Carlson Gallery of Photography in Miller Hall.

This show featured the works of the University's photo department alumni across generations. The photos captured a wide range of subjects and styles, lightness to darkness.

The photographers included Amanda Torres, Chris Rogers, Frank Perez, Casi Martinez, Kim Toth, Ethan Bermudez, Raffi Zinzalian, Nanor Zinzalian and Maxwell Sierra.

Fred Brashear, visiting professor of photography at the University and show curator, selected the photographs to highlight each photographer's unique approach style.

"They sent me some work, I curated it, and then I chose the pieces that I felt fit best into the show and represented them," Brashear said.

Martinez's works included photos that tell the story of her grandparents' travels. The photos are of metal cyanotypes that Martinez created which visually represents their story.

Bermudez, who expanded his creative path from photography to directing a music video for Foreverproof by Comfort Club, included in his works a triptych of the hand-built set for the music video. The picture shows the set, an all white room which gets torn apart to reveal a red interior underneath. Bermudez said this piece was inspired by the Jim Carrey film "The Truman Show."

"We worked on this idea doing a 'Truman Show'-esque idea where he can see it expose the set for being kind of what it is," Bermudez said. "So we got some stills from here with him realizing the rippage and then the aftermath of the whole exposure of the set."

> 'Once you find yourself getting more work, set more boundaries with what you think you feel comfortable with.'
> *—Nanor Zinzalian, photographer*

Sierra described his work as representative of political change and consumer culture. Specifically, his photo featured an abandoned shopping cart in a field of grass.

"I like the shopping cart," said freshman Ella Zazueta, who attended the reception. "It has a surrealism vibe."

Toth, who currently teaches photography at Citrus College, showed a close-up shot of a flower.

Raffi Zinzalian's piece was a headshot of Hagop Achkarian, an Armenian genocide survivor, to tell the story of pain and resilience passed down generations of Armenians.

Nanor Zinzalian, who is Raffi's daughter, has pursued photography as her full-time career since graduating from the University.

For her business, Enzie Photo, she photographs brands, products and family portraits.

Nanor Zinzalian's piece is a brand shoot for Reset Hair, showing a candid close-up of a woman brushing her hair. She photographed her piece at her studio in Glendale, California.

"I think a lot of brand work I photograph for, I try to do a lifestyle approach," Nanor Zinzalian said.

"I find it just way more comfortable for me to photograph products in that setting because it feels more organic."

Nanor Zinzalian had a few words for those looking into professional photography.

"For people who want to start photographing, say yes to many things and experiment," Zinzalian said. "Once you find yourself getting more work, set more boundaries with what you think you feel comfortable with."

The Irene Carlson Gallery, on the first floor of Miller Hall is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The "Light, Shadow and Legacy" exhibit runs through Dec. 12.

*Donya Rouzbehi can be reached at **donya.rouzbehi@laverne.edu**.*

Commentary

Bad Bunny to conquer halftime show



MARINA BRAVO

After experiencing un verano sin Bad Bunny, or a summer without Bad Bunny, the Puerto Rican reggaeton singer has announced his return to the United States. He will take part in the SuperBowl LX halftime show on Feb. 8, 2026, at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

The announcement came Sept. 28 during the Sunday Night Football broadcast. Since then, it has sparked opinions all over the nation. Some love it and others hate the idea. Among the criticism, there is a pressing question arising – will ICE be present at the Super Bowl?

Prior to this announcement, Bad Bunny had a 30-night residency in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

He had made the decision of excluding the United States from his tour due to his concern of ICE targeting his concerts because of his large fanbase of Latinos.

"There were so many reasons why I didn't show up in the U.S. and none of them were out of hate," Bad Bunny told i-D Magazine.

"But there was the issue of…f*cking ICE could be outside (my concert)...it was something we are very concerned about."

Although the shows were in Puerto Rico, this did not stop fans from traveling and selling out his residency. This created an exceptional boost in the U.S. territory's economy.

After being named as Spotify's most-streamed artist globally three times in a row for 2020, 2021 and 2022 it should be no surprise that Bad Bunny was chosen for the halftime show.

However, it seems that many people with conservative mindsets beg to differ.

Podcaster Benny Johnson described Bad Bunny as a "cross-dressing, America-hating, ICE- hating, Puerto Rican dude," and pointed out the fact that he does not sing in English.

Johnson asked his guest Corey Lewandowski, chief advisor to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and former presidential campaign manager for President Donald Trump, his thoughts on ICE officers appearing at the Super Bowl.

Lewandowski stated that there is no "safe haven" for immigrants and Johnson agreed. He also made the claim that if an undocumented person is found attending the Super Bowl they will be deported.

Noem told MSNBC on Oct. 3 that the NFL claimed that only "law-abiding Americans who love this country," should attend the Super Bowl and that Homeland Security would be "all over" the Super Bowl.

Despite the claims made by Lewandowski and Noem, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavit told Fox News they currently have no plans to bring ICE to the Super Bowl.

Bad Bunny was the host of "Saturday Night Live" on Oct. 4 and during his monologue he addressed the announcement by speaking in Spanish. He said he was excited and that this achievement demonstrates that the impact and fingerprint that Latinos have in this country is something that no one could erase.

He concluded his monologue by saying; "If you didn't understand what I just said, you have four months to learn."

Considering the country's political climate, Bad Bunny is the perfect choice for such a large national platform.

He will be a voice representing our community as a Latino, and he will be able to provide the first-hand experience of being a Latino living in this country.

I am a product of hard working Mexican immigrants and know first-hand what they have done for this country. Yet immigrants are constantly being demonized in the media – especially Latinos.

Bad Bunny is a current, exciting, fresh and global hitmaker who isn't afraid to speak out against injustice and act on it. With the last Super Bowl featuring someone as strong as rapper Kendrick Lamar, whose performance also sparked a political conversation, this is exactly what we needed.

Bad Bunny has in a way given us a mere preview of what is to be expected from him for his halftime show performance recently in his music video for song "NUEVAYoL" off of his new album, "DeBÍ TiRAR MáS FOToS."

The video features a scene with a group of people around a boombox in New York. They are tuning into what seems to be a familiar voice we all know very well for when it comes to them sharing opinions on specifically Latino immigrants.

The voice is offering an apology to all immigrants of the country and that specifically they owe all immigrants from Latin America a sincere apology.

Will such a day ever come from our president?

It is hard to say; but what we do know is that the SuperBowl LX halftime show is going to be a reflection of decades of hard work, dedication and impact from the Latino community.

It will be a testament that Latinos and immigrants everywhere are what make America great.

Marina Bravo, a senior journalism major, is arts editor for the Campus Times. She can be reached by email at ***marina.bravo@laverne.edu****.*

STEM...

Continued from page 2

the chance to feel more included.

In the science departments, professors have made it a point to teach about physicists fro minority backgrounds that have not been credited in the field before, so students can feel seen..

"You can't survive without diversity," Broussard said. "The living systems can't survive without diversity. So to think that our society could survive being a monoculture is really not logical and not supported by data."

"You can't survive without diversity," Broussard said. "The living systems can't survive without diversity. So to think that our society could survive being a monoculture is really not logical and not supported by data."

Still some women in STEM classes will walk in and notice they are the only woman in the class, and wonder how they will make it work.

"You know you're probably going to be by yourself, or you're going to be in a group where they're not going to let you do anything," Abbygail Siapno, freshman math and physics major and member of Women in Tech, said. "Or you're going to get lucky somehow and find a respectful man."

Still many women are not deterred by the experiences they have in their classes or in their jobs. They want to make the environment better for women.

"For me personally, sitting down with my own experiences, it's definitely heavy," said Kristen Chavis, junior computer science major and member of Women in Tech. "But what I think gets to me more is thinking about everyone else's experiences because women are at least half the population. So I feel bad for myself...But that's also what makes me want to go and support women because I know all of us are going through this."

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A little "Taste of Talent"



Antonio Ceniceros

Several students from the music department formed a band to perform for the Taste for Talent audience in the Campus Center Ballroom on Oct. 2. The campus-wide talent show was part of Homecoming week festivities. There were more than 100 people at the event. The talents ranged from dancing to playing instruments for the crowd.

Soccer takes close loss to Athenas

Defensive battle gives hope

Miguel Navarro
Staff Writer

The La Verne Leopards lost a hard-fought 1-0 game to the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Athenas on Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium before a Homecoming morning crowd of about 170 people.

The Leopards entered the match still chasing their first goal and win of the season despite many close opportunities throughout the season.

"The word extra motivation, you know, I don't think that's the right word for it," head coach Lauryn Pehanich said. "I think the women are motivated to step into every game, no matter what the current surroundings are behind it."

As play began, the Athenas quickly took control of the game by controlling the time of possession from the Leopards.

Their attack consisted of an aerial approach from their passes as they looked to move down the field quickly to create chances.

This effort had seen success as they had scored eight goals in the last two games; however, the Leopards cut down the chances early.

"They're a very technical team, so our game plan was a little different than normal," Pehanich said. "We sat a lot deeper than we normally do …We made them play over us as opposed to through us."

In the 17th minute, the Leopards were able to shift the momentum when junior midfielder Alyssa Houlihan's shot was saved by CMS.

Despite limited opportunities, the Leopards cut out any chances by the Athenas. They held them scoreless despite multiple corner kick chances.

The anchor of the Leopards' defense was junior defender and captain Maren Handel getting multiple clear outs.

"When I see that I'm the last man, I know I have to give it my all to win the ball," Handel said. "I enjoy those one-versus-one high-pressure plays."

The two sides entered halftime scoreless. The second half began with the Athenas taking control of the energy of the game.

They were able to get two shots off in just the first 10 minutes of the half, but the Leopards remained strong.

The Leopards' attack in the second half was limited, but it was freshman midfielder Layla Lopez who created multiple chances for them through her passing.

"Connecting the team off the field is really important in order to get those connections on the field," Lopez said.

Later in the half, the Leopards relied on junior goalkeeper Natalia Portillo to keep the game tied. She finished the match with five big saves and multiple diving stops.

"My mindset is I'm going to back my team up just as much as they are," Portillo said. "I want to perform as well as I can."

The pressure from the Athenas proved too much as in the 79th minute, they were able to score a late goal to put the game away.

The Leopards were unable to make a comeback and fell short.

However, for the Leopards, the ability to be competitive with a top team in the conference is a positive takeaway.

"Their coach told us after the game that we were one of the hardest teams to compete with at this point," Pehanich said. "That's really encouraging to hear."

Their record now sits at 0–7-4 overall. The Leopards' next game will be at 7 p.m. Saturday against the Caltech Beavers at Ortmayer Stadium.

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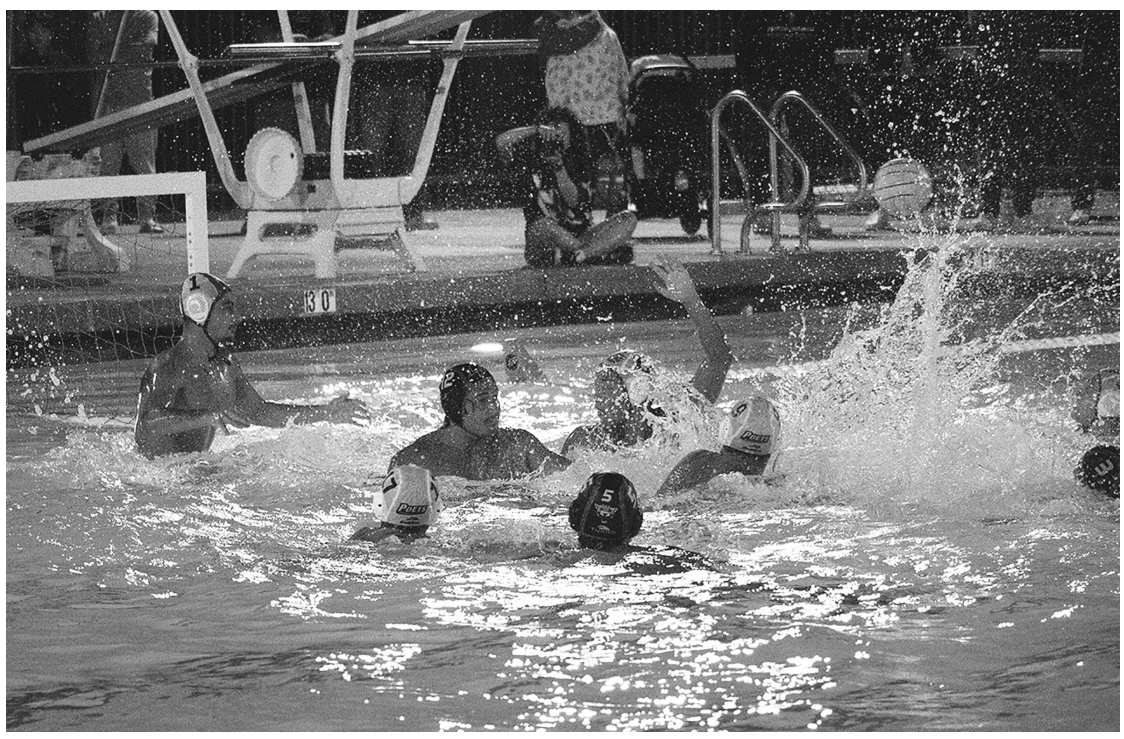
> 'Their coach told us after the game that we were one of the hardest teams to compete with at this point. That's really encouraging to hear.'
> *—Lauryn Pehanich, head coach*

Poets beat Leopards despite personal record



photography by Aaliyah Alamillo



Left: The La Verne men's water polo team attempts to score Wednesday at the La Verne Aquatic Center against Whittier. The Leopards went on to lose to the Poets, 20-17, after a tough back-and-forth match.

Above: La Verne attacker Jordan Baker makes a throw Wednesday at the La Verne Aquatic Center against Whittier. Baker set a personal record this season with nine points scored in one game. However, it was not enough as the Poets beat the Leopards, 20-17.

LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Volleyball, October 3
La Verne - 3
Cal Lutheran - 2

Men's Water Polo, October 4
Augustana - 14
La Verne - 13

Men's Water Polo, October 4
UC Merced - 8
La Verne - 10

Volleyball, October 4
Caltech - 0
La Verne - 3

Men's Soccer, October 4
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps - 1
La Verne - 2

SCHEDULE

Friday
Men's and women's cross country @ San Francisco State Invitational, 3:30 p.m.
Volleyball vs. Redlands, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Men's water polo @ Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 11 a.m.
Men's soccer @ Caltech, 11 a.m.
Football vs. Cal Lutheran, 1 p.m.
Volleyball @ Occidental, 4 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs. Caltech, 7 p.m.

Tuesday
Volleyball vs. Chapman, 7 p.m.

Wednesday
Women's soccer @ Pomona-Pitzer, 4 p.m.
Men's water polo @ Chapman, 7 p.m.
Men's soccer vs. Pomona-Pitzer, 7 p.m.

STANDINGS

	SCIAC	Overall
Sun		
Cal Lutheran	2-0	4-0
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps	0-2	2-2
Redlands	0-2	2-2
Surf		
Pomona-Pitzer	2-0	3-1
Chapman	2-0	2-2
La Verne	0-2	0-3

Leopards fall short at Homecoming

Karina Rodriguez
Sports Editor

The Leopards lost the Homecoming football game against the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens, 34-12, Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium. La Verne began the game with two early touchdowns but could not keep up the momentum.

"We started off hot and then we obviously couldn't convert first downs on offense … and defense is getting tired which is unacceptable," head coach Richard Sanchez said.

Sanchez is hopeful to grant the Leopards a victory soon.

"The battle, the fight is still good," Sanchez said. "We're just not football smart right now."

At 12:02 in the first quarter junior quarterback Ahmais Hart passed the ball to junior wide receiver Jimmy Rumsey.

Rumsey caught the ball and ran 16 yards to give La Verne their first touchdown of the game.

Rumsey credits his touchdown to reading the Sagenhens' safety's body language to trick him.

"His hips were square," Rumsey said. "I stepped right and made him open that way and broke left and outran him and caught the ball right over the shoulder, textbook catch."

Rumsey believes that while he had good plays, he thinks he has room for improvement.

"I can work on getting more open, you know, help my quarterbacks out," Rumsey said.

After Rumsey's touchdown, La Verne was unsuccessful in their extra point attempt.

Pomona-Pitzer defensive back Duncan Lee received the kick and returned it 98 yards to give the Sagehens their first points of the game, bringing the score to 6-2.

With 10:24 minutes left in the first quarter, junior running back Tyler McCown ran six yards to give La Verne another touchdown, bringing the score up to 12-2.



CC Flaherty

Junior quarterback Brian Rudden tries to punch into the end zone on fourth down for La Verne in the fourth quarter against Pomona-Pitzer on Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium. The Leopards' offense was faced with a first-and-goal on the Sagehens' 5-yard line for their last possession of the game but was unable to convert the chance. Pomona-Pitzer won, 34-12.

"Saw an open hole, got there … if I make a miss it's a touchdown and if I don't make a miss, I'm down to the 3 or 2 (yard line)," McCown said.

He credits his ability to better read players as something that helped him in this moment during the game and beyond.

"I think I did a much better job blocking today and making my reads and being able to get quick passes to allow the quarterback to have some sort of relief back there," McCown said.

La Verne did not score another touchdown for the rest of the game.

Pomona-Pitzer scored three times in the second quarter to take the lead, 19-12.

During the third quarter, sophomore free safety Justin Mondini intercepted a pass by Pomona-Pitzer quarterback Luke Levitt.

"I saw the quarterback's eyes because we were in the zone," Mondini said. "He was looking right behind me so I just played it underneath."

Mondini said he thinks the game becomes easier for him when he stays in the moment to be able to accomplish such plays.

"It actually felt a little easier at the moment and as I caught it, just trying to find some open grass and get moving," Mondini said.

At 10:40 in the third quarter senior kicker Jack Walker of Pomona-Pitzer hit a successful field goal to bring the score up to 22-12.

In the fourth quarter Pomona-Pitzer scored an additional two times to make the final score 34-12.

The Leopards are currently 0-2 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and 0-3 overall. They will play against Cal Lutheran at 1 p.m. on Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium.

Karina Rodriguez can be reached at ***karina.rodriguez3@laverne.edu***.

'The battle, the fight is still good. We're just not football smart right now.'
—Richard Sanchez, head coach



CC Flaherty

La Verne sophomore linebacker Dylan Reiner, junior linebacker Ashton Smith and senior defensive lineman Jeremiah Naylor take down a Pomona-Pitzer runner Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium. The Leopards lost, 34-12, to fall to 0-3 on the season. They will host Cal Lutheran at 1 p.m. Saturday in Ortmayer Stadium.



CC Flaherty

Sophomore defensive back Justin Mondini (No. 8) gets hyped with his teammates after getting an interception against Pomona-Pitzer on Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium.