Campus Times

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Inside

Local houses get spooky p3
Inclusivity grants stripped p2
Volleyball continues dominance p8

Trump admin cancels HSI grants

Alexander Hernandez
Staff Writer

In September the U.S. Department of Education canceled two federal grants the University of La Verne had used for programs to help students with academic, professional and personal development.

The Holistic and Inclusive Practices for Student Success program ended abruptly last month as a result, causing the loss of valuable student resources and jobs at the University of La Verne.

Program staff members were also laid off, including associate director Tiffany Garcia, administrative assistant Alexzandra Jimenez and first-year experience coordinator Sherly Aviles-Morgado.

The cancellation was part of President Donald Trump's broader agenda to defund programs considered to support organizations and institutions that promote diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI.

The program here offered peer mentoring and professional and academic workshops; and it provided year-to-year academic roadmaps for students, with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, subjects.

At the start of the 2021-2022 academic year, the University was awarded a one-time Hispanic-Serving Institution STEM program grant in the amount of $999,901.

The grant helped fund the Holistic and Inclusive Practices for Student Success program.

The University, as a designated Hispanic Serving Institution, with more than 50% of students identifying as Hispanic or Latino, had received these funds from the federal government for programs to support this population.

The grants fell under Title III and Title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which provided federal grants to institutions specifically because of their high-minority populations.

The grant was anticipated to last for five years, concluding at the end of the current 2025-2026 academic year.

In January 2025, the University informed faculty members that they would not be pursuing a renewal after the initial five year period.

The resources and programs were designed and planned to last for five full years.

Rick Hasse, professor of accounting and finance, shed some light on this timeline.

Hasse said that despite which way the current presidential administration was leaning, the funds would be terminated after the five year period.

"The departments of Title III and Title V were informed that the funding would be running out this year," Hasse said. "No matter what happened with the Trump administration, the particular grants that we had were being ended."

But in September the University received a notice from the United States Department of Education that grants under Title III and Title V would end immediately.

Aracely Gutiérrez, director of the Title III Hispanic Serving Institution STEM grant, was in communication with the Department of Education.

She said Education Department officials cited a specific line in their initial application five years ago that the Trump Administration deemed unconstitutional.

"What they quoted was around the work we're doing with professional development for faculty that focused on culturally relevant work, pedagogy and the classroom," Gutiérrez said. "They stated that that type of work is discriminatory and therefore funding would be cut."

Gutiérrez said that the grant and Department of Education allow for up to 120 days of wrap-up for logistical reasons.

She will stay employed until the end of December, then her staff and team will be out of a job.

"My staff will be eliminated," Gutiérrez said. "They've been imperative to the success of the work and to the success of our students."

Daniel Loera, director of multicultural affairs, said he hopes the University will continue to live up to its Hispanic-Serving Institution title and find a way to cover the loss of funding and services such as the peer mentoring, individualized support from grant staff, textbook assistance and professional development opportunities that include guest speakers from various STEM fields.

"We have to do everything we can to provide that level of service, with or without those federal grants, which is then our challenge as an institution," Loera said.

Students who benefitted from the services funded by the federal grants were also caught off guard by the news. They said these services were so important for their success.

Junior biology major Jim-Nasser Shin said that the STEM programs funded by the federal grants help him to boost his GPA and his morale in the journey to his degree following a life-threatening challenge.

Shin took part in the Holistic and Inclusive Practices for Student Success program after being involved in an off-campus shooting during his freshman year.

"I was in a drive-by shooting in Pomona and there's no way I would've been able to pick myself up from a situation like that," Shin said.

Shin said the extra support via this program was pivotal for him getting back on track.

"Ever since I joined, I've raised my GPA, it skyrocked,-because all the classes I had to retake, I retook them. I got A's," Shin said.

University Provost Ken O'Donnell addressed the issue during the Oct. 6 Faculty Senate meeting.

He told senators and attendees that University officials are working to see if these services can continue to be offered to students following the loss of the federal grants.

"We are scrambling to figure out how to use other resources on campus to keep the valuable work going," O'Donnell told senators. "We are also evaluating data from that set of projects to see what seemed to be working and what should be prioritized as we figure out what we can keep."

O'Donnell also acknowledged the grant programs' success in a Sept. 24 email to the University community.

"The faculty and staff paid from these funds worked hard to make the most of the opportunity, driving our recognized success with upward mobility – for all students, including those from historically undeserved communities," O'Donnell said in the Sept. 24 email. "All of us are deeply disappointed to see the funding abruptly terminated."

O'Donnell declined the Campus Times's request for an interview.

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Panel sheds light on domestic abuse

Donya Rouzbehi
Staff Writer

University's United Leos organization collaborated with House of Ruth, the Pomona-based domestic violence treatment center, for a panel discussion about domestic violence and recovery.

More than 30 students and community members attended the event Tuesday, in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space.

Ashley Spencer, volunteer manager of House of Ruth, moderated the panel. She encouraged community members to get involved and support the cause.

"The best way to support is through monetary donations," Spencer said. "So the money can go directly to the client and we're able to keep our services going. We also love to get volunteers and interns, either undergrad or postgrad."

The panelists included Jessica-Marie and Jesus Jacuinde, who discussed different aspects of domestic violence, including the early, happier phases of a relationship, experiences of their own abuse and their healing journeys.

Speakers also dove into heavier and sensitive topics such as neglect, PTSD responses, guilt and overall trauma they endured due to the abuse.

Spencer asked panelists about their own healing journeys, including the "turning point" in walking away from a life with abuse. Education was a key factor in the survivors' healing journeys – when they learned that their relationship dynamics were not normal.

Jacuinde showed appreciation for empowering the survivors by giving them a voice and becoming more educated on domestic violence.

"Learning not only the language of domestic violence but also knowing how to navigate the triggers and finding good interventions suitable for the specific person," Jacuinde said.

Students who attended said they'd like to see more such events that bring awareness of domestic violence on campus.

More than one in three women, and one in four men have experienced, or will experience domestic violence – which includes rape, physical violence or

Continued on page 6

On the Cover

La Verne houses keep the scares coming. This house on the corner of Bonita Avenue and E Street is decorated around the Stephen King horror classic "IT." Featured on the porch is a large statue of Pennywise waiting with a chilling "Time to Float" banner above. / photo by Lexi Giacobbe

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Bonita Avenue embraces Halloween

Residents' go all out for holiday



Lexi Giacobbe

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of "Jaws," the house at the 2200 block of Bonita Avenue is decorated with a handmade sign, handmade cage and plastic sharks covered in blood. Veronica DaSilva, the owner of the house, moved to La Verne in 2022 and always tries to bring her of horror movies from the 1980s into her Halloween decorations.

Olivia Russo
LV Life Editor

On Halloween, the city of La Verne can see anywhere from 2,500 to 5,000 residents to get treated to candy and tricked by the houses decorated for the spooky season.

For some of the houses on Bonita Ave., it is a tradition to bring a festive spirit to the front lawn.

These decorations range from pirates to pumpkins to films like "Jaws" and "Wicked," all with the same goal: for kids and families to enjoy their Halloween.

Melissa Acuff, resident of La Verne for over 40 years, lives at the 2300 block of Bonita Ave. with her girlfriend.

The front lawn featured skeletons playing various party games like bone pong and whack-a-skull.

"My girlfriend and mine's inspiration because of the town Lordsburg is what it used to be named," Acuff said.

"So we went from there and went bone-wise."

At the 2200 block of Bonita Ave, owner Linda Ruppert let her son, Dusty Ruppert, and daughter-in-law, Jill Ruppert, turn her front lawn into a creepy and detailed circus.

At night, the family adds fog machines, fake fire and their kids dress up as creepy clowns to scare anyone walking down the street. They already had booths, which inspired the idea, and added other pieces from Amazon.

"We're pretty involved in La Verne and he's (Dusty Ruppert) lived here for his whole life," Jill Ruppert said.

"We love being part of the La Verne community and Bonita is really the prime street to be able to do something like this on, everybody sees it."

The couple has been decorating the house for about four years and put together everything in about a month, adding each week as the holiday gets closer.

Further down the street are the two houses, known for their elaborate and well thought out decorations.

Another house on the 2200 block of Bonita Avenue, is home to Veronica DaSilva, who honored the 50th anniversary of Jaws this year with a shark attack themed lawn.

She ordered plastic sharks from Home Depot, and hand built everything else, including the lifeguard chair that is a large repurposed popcorn bucket from last year.

"When I bought the house in 2022, I was a widow…I think it was a really great place for us to start over as a family…it's just great to be able to make people happy to stop by," DaSilva said.

Since her husband's passing, DaSilva said that decorating the house is fun for her kids and gives them happier memories despite their hardship.

"I've met so many neighbors, so many people just by doing this," DaSilva said.

"I've met friends and built a community, my kids too…creating new memories for them after a situation that's just been so rough, it just seems to be getting better."

The house next door, owners Dominique and Chris Johnson, went viral on TikTok for their "Wicked" house, which involved them painting their house pink and green, the two popular colors from the movie.

The house features main characters, Elphaba, floating in front of the house, similar to her final pose during the musical number "Defying Gravity," and Glinda, on the lawn in her bubble, similar to her introduction in the movie.

"We love the musical, we can't wait for the next part to come out next month," Chris Johnson said.

"We try to do whatever's been popular…we brainstorm on it usually in June or July, and then start working on it in September. I try to get it all up by October 1."

The Johnson family has been decorating their house since purchasing it in October 2016, they placed skeletons outside to appear as if they were doing construction on the house.

Since then, decorating has become an annual tradition

"I think the word is really hard right now," Dominique Johnson said.

"With technology, young people have access to probably more information than they should and they're not ready to process it…I get so excited hearing the kids out front. They want to take pictures and that's it. We've achieved it."

DaSilva plans to redecorate her house for the season of "Stranger Things" in November, and the Johnson family is debating whether to keep their house decorated for the release of "Wicked: For Good."

However both houses plan to go all out for the Christmas season.

"If I can do it differently every month, then I probably will, I don't think I'm going to stop," DaSilva said.

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Students prefer making their own costumes

Miguel Navarro
Staff Writer

In a recent informal survey, 13 out of 20 University of La Verne students said they prefer to create Halloween costumes from scratch with everyday pieces of clothing over purchasing a ready-made costume.

"I don't really like spending money on a costume," said Logan Rodriguez, freshman kinesiology major. "I would much rather …just make it on my own."

Today is Halloween, and finding the perfect costume is part of the college experience.

While most students surveyed enjoy creating their costumes, some prefer them ready-to-go.

Students said the rising cost of costumes – and everything – also affected their preferences.

Some use do-it-yourself online guides.

"I think there is a little bit of joy in creating my own costumes," Rodriguez said. "I also … don't want to be spending $80 for a Halloween costume."

Along with the cost, students also cited the quality of the costume as important when shopping for separate pieces.

"The more quality items you have, the better the costume will look in my experience," said Emily Saldivar, senior kinesiology major. "I'll just buy some stuff that's more quality and I can use it more."

Past Halloween costume experiences have also played a factor in creating alternative versions of the costume.

"I've thought before, 'I'm never going to wear this again, why did I spend money on it'," Saldivar said.

"I'm a very last-minute person," said Drea Silva, senior kinesiology major, who said she thrives on figuring it all out close to show time.

"At the end, it just kind of all falls together."

But those buying ready-made costumes touted the benefits of this choice.

"For me, I'd go buy one really good costume and wear it every single year," junior kinesiology major Raul Sandoval said.

This approach has been Sandoval's preference since childhood.

"The costumes were a good investment for me, especially in my youth," Sandoval said.

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Phi Alpha Theta tours ghostly past

Marina Bravo
Arts Editor



Marina Bravo

Guests of the Oct. 24 Phi Alpha Theta Ghost Tour listen to the classic tale of history professor Gladdys Muir; the woman who died after falling off the east wing stairs of Founders Hall. One of the many stops on the Ghost Tour. Students, faculty and alumni learned all about the ghostly friends we share here on campus. At the same time learning about true historical aspects of the school.

Part of the University of La Verne's history and lore are the ghosts that wander the 134-year-old institution's hallowed halls.

And with Halloween upon us, these ghost stories are taking center stage.

From Founders Hall being a ghost hot spot, to names like history professor Gladdys Muir, former audio-visual director, David Glasa, and an unclaimed cadaver to Dailey Theaters' Jim Henderson – ULV has its share of ghostly legends.

The tour stopped at four different locations with a total of eight different ghost stories told.

The honors society for history students and professors, Phi Alpha Theta, hosted a ghost tour on Oct. 24 followed by a dinner in the Hanawalt House. With about 20 students and alumni in attendance, graduate student, Phi Alpha Theta president and event coordinator Emma Cossey immersed guests on a historic and ghostly venture.

"I am definitely someone who is worn to the creepy kind of things," Cossey said. "I just thought this would be a really fun opportunity for students to learn about some historical ghosts on campus."

The tour began outside the Campus Center where Cossey explained each ghost and their stories would be told respectfully and only in a way to share the University's unique history. The very first story told was the one of Gladdys Muir.

The story goes that Muir was a history professor who fell down the east stairs of Founders Hall and who allegedly cracked her head open and died instantly, which led the infamous "do-not-touch" La Verne seal to be built.

Cossey explained how the popular campus ghost story has it wrong. She explained how Muir later died at the hospital and the seal was installed in the 1980s, about 20 years later.

"To be honest, most of the stories that I heard tonight, I did not know," Kenneth Marcus, professor of history, said. "The only one that I did, was the one of Gladdys Muir. But I, like a lot of people, got the story wrong."

Many guests knew of Muir as one of the things they learned about at their SOAR orientation.

"It's very interesting how all this time the story of Gladdys Muir was wrong," Evan Orozco, graduate student, said. "But I would still respect the tradition of not stepping on the seal."

Inside of Founders Hall, in classroom 212, Cossey told the story of "Pablo" the University's only cadaver applicant. In 1922, a group of ULV anatomy students decided to take matters into their own hands and claim one of the many "John Does" from the Los Angeles Hospital. The students, knowing they didn't have access to a human skeleton, brought the male remains to one of the classrooms in Founders Hall. Only needing the skeleton, the group had to come up with a quick way to remove the skin of the body. Just for their project to be uncovered by a couple of nuns going classroom to classroom to uncover the source of an awful smell.

"The first ghost story I had ever heard, it's not necessarily about the ghost, but it is about Pablo, from Dr. Ben Jenkins," Cossey said. "I had done my community service hours working in the archive and that story was an exciting one."

Another bone-chilling story was the one of former audio-visual director David Glasa, who drank a bottle of cyanide in his office later to be discovered by a custodian. His death was a surprise to many students and one of the stories that stuck for the rest of the tour.

Evan Lyons, a junior political science major, was taking the tour with his friend Maxwell Wilder, a junior history major at Cal Poly Pomona and they both shared how they love the paranormal. However, the story of Glasa was something the La Verne natives weren't expecting.

"The origin of Pablo, the skeleton, was crazy but the story of David, that was a bit outlandish," Lyons said. "I think the incident with David Glasa was shocking," Wilder said. "I feel like you don't hear about that happening in that way very often."

Then in the Dailey Theatre they learned about Jim Henderson, the student who was murdered in the Mojave Desert after going to film a school TV project. The tour concluded at the Hanawalt House with Panda Express for dinner.

"I really enjoyed this event," Lyons said. "I think most of the ghost stories were actually pretty fresh and new for me."

The next ghost tour will happen Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Hanawalt House and it is open to students, faculty and community members,

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Latino holiday and culture linked to lowriders

Cassidy Diaz
Staff Writer

The University of La Verne's Latino Student Forum hosted the Lowriders in La Verne event Saturday in Parking Lot E.

It featured about 25 lowriders and classic cars were displayed in all. The event honored the upcoming Latin American holiday of Dia De Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, celebrated on Nov. 1 and 2.

The holiday honors and remembers loved ones who have passed away through festivities, food, photographs, music and colorful decorations. An ofrenda, or altar, was set-up with colorful decorations of painted skulls, colorful papel picado and marigolds, which is the traditional Day of the Dead flower because of its vibrant color and powerful scent that is believed to guide spirits to their altars.

Mexican food, desserts and agua frescas were being served by students in LSF, music was provided by a DJ. Lowriders, classic cars and motorcycles filled the parking lot with various types, colors and unique interior design.

Some of the designs included animal prints, colored velvet and exterior hot pink vinyl wraps. Other vehicles had festive Halloween decorations and marigold stems scattered as a sign of respect for the holiday.

The University's folklorico club performed various traditional Mexican dances during the event. Student dancers were dressed in traditional folklorico attire of ruffled and colorful dresses and charro suits with boots.

"It feels pretty cool to be a part of this event and provide a unique side of Latin culture here at school through dance," Syra Arian, sophomore biology major and secretary of the folklorico club said. "Events like these keep culture alive, and that's what we are doing through folklorico."

The majority of the classical cars were from members of the Classic OG SoCal, a car club. They specialize in restoring and customizing classic cars and traveling to various car shows to display the art of lowriders.

"From my younger days I really appreciated the look of custom cars, and I wanted to start working on cars," Thomas Parrilla, member of Classic OG SoCal club. "Once I started cruising and going to shows and sharing with everybody my artwork, and so did everyone else in showing their own handcrafts it brings the community together in appreciating the art of others."

In Mexican-American and Chicano heritage, lowriders play a big part in the community and cultural expression in Los Angeles since the 1940s.

Within clubs and communities lowriders represent respect, familial bonds and pride. Victor Carbajal has been connected to lowriders for his whole life. He heard about Lowriders in La Verne through an online flyer and came from the city of Norco to display his 1968 silver Chevy Caprice.

"I've been raised with lowriders within my family, through uncles and friends, it is just something that is in our blood," Carbajal said.

"It's important to celebrate our heritage, and to share the lowrider culture. I wanted to support the university's Latino students by showing up. They are doing good work for the community and Latino heritage by honoring traditions like this."

Anait Lopez, who is a resident of the city of La Verne and came to support her niece who is a part of the folklorico club, is proud that students are sharing parts of the Latino heritage and culture with the La Verne community.

"In uncertain times like today, where our culture is being diminished, these types of events are more important than ever," Lopez said.

"The community coming out to support the student events with all classic cars, music, and Mexican heritage, is important because we want to keep culture alive throughout the years to come."

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Happenings

‘Holding Up the Sky’

The Harris Gallery features an exhibition with work from Daniela Campins, Patricia Fernandez, Carcedo Yaron Michael Hakim, Nery Gabriel Lemus, Manuel Lopez, Isabel Nuño de Buen and Maria Rendón.

“Holding Up the Sky” explores between the connection between the physical and spiritual worlds.

The exhibit runs through Dec. 4.

The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday through Thursday.

For more information, visit **artsci.laverne.edu/art/exhibition/holding-up-the-sky**.

‘Light, Shadow, and Legacy’

The Irene Carlson Gallery presents an exhibition from University of La Verne photo department alumni, “Light, Shadow, and Legacy,” through Dec. 12.

The gallery is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

‘Studio Focus–COLOR!’

The “Studio Focus–COLOR!” exhibit features acrylic paintings made by students in the Painting I class from the spring 2025 semester.

The works from art students 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,” a film seminar series intended to help students develop awareness of their environment and politics is 7 p.m. every Friday in ACB 212.

This week’s film will be “You Are What You Eat” on Friday.

The film is about the effects of diet on health and well-being.

—Campus Times Staff

Chorale hits Spooky notes

by Margaret Contreras

photography by Mia Byington



Senior theatre arts major Emily Freeman, junior kinesiology major Lauren Sandoval and junior political science major Destiny Tenor perform Sunday in Morgan Auditorium during the Halloween Choral Concert. Their rendition of “I Put a Spell on You” was one of eight solo and small group numbers during the concert.

The first note rang at the start of the Halloween Choral Concert at 7 p.m. on Oct. 26 in the Morgan Auditorium. The choir, solos and chamber singers performed to a full house, some guests had to stand alongside the walls.

The concert was filled with spooky seasonal music from the Broadway musical “Beetlejuice,” Harry Potter, Disney and Taylor Swift.

The first song to kick off the concert was “The Ballad of Sweeney Todd” by Stephen Sondheim, arranged by Andy Beck. Quickly followed by “In Noctem” by Steven Kloves and Nicholas Hooper, arranged by Andy Beck, from “Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince,” both performed by the University’s Chamber Singers.

Before proceeding with the solo performances, Clarissa Shan, director of choral activities and vocal studies welcomed the audience to the show.

“Good evening everyone,” Shan said. “Thank you so much for taking your time out of the weekend to come and join us for the Halloween concert…I hope you enjoy this evening of spooky music.”

There were five solo performances before intermission. With the choral performing a song before the final three. The first two solo songs were from Disney princess movies.

The solo performance started with “Friends on the Other Side” by Randy Newman from Disney’s “The Princess and Frog.” It was sung by chorale bass Oscar Calderon.

Following Calderon, soprano chamber singer Kathryn Broadwater sang “Poor Unfortunate Soul” by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman from Disney’s “The Little Mermaid.”

The University’s Chorale appeared on stage to perform a song from “Harry Potter and the Prisoner for Azkaban,” “Double Trouble” by John Williams arranged by Teena Chinn.

“It was a little nerve wracking,” Sarah Sandoval, sophomore biology major and University of La Verne chorale alto, said. “Overall it was a lot of fun.”

After the performance Shan discussed the opportunities to donate to the program to help fund the students’ trip to Germany and yearly activities.

The last three solo performances before intermission were chamber singer alto Rania Kartouch, chorale singer bass Kevin Ortega and chamber singer Adriana Procida. Kartouch played the piano while she sang Taylor Swift’s “No Body, No Crime.”

“Music of the Night” from “The Phantom of the Opera” by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Charles Hart was performed by Ortega. Then Procida sang “Dead Mom” by Eddie Perfect from “Beetlejuice.”

Intermission was about 20 minutes. During that time there was a costume contest, the contestants were lined up in front of the stage. The winner of the contest was the Oz family.

“We’ve been doing family costumes since we had,” Brittany Allison, costume winner and mom, said. “We do a family costume every year based on what we are most into that year and we’ve really been into ‘Wicked’.”

Families and guests were then invited to purchase snacks and beverages outside the auditorium for $2 to $3.

The first performance coming out of intermission was the University chorale. They sang “Dies Irae” by Ryan Main and then Marvel’s “Agatha All Along,” “The Ballad of the Witches Road” by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, arranged by Roger Emerson.

Following the choir were two more solos with chamber singer alto Alina Stannard and chamber singer alto Angelina Alvarez. Then one group performance with chamber singer alto Emily Freeman, chamber singer alto Lauren Sandoval and chamber singer soprano Destiny Tenor.

Stannard performed from “The Nightmare Before Christmas” tune “Sally’s Song” by Danny Elfman, followed with “Home” from “Beetlejuice” by Eddie Perfect, sung by Alvarez.

Freeman, Sandoval and Trenor performed “I Put a Spell On You” by Screamin’ Jay Hawkins and arranged by Jacob Narverud. The song was featuring in Disney’s “Hocus Pocus.”

The final two performances were done by the University’s Chamber Singers. The first song was the title song “The Nightmare Before Christmas” by Danny Elfman and arranged by Alan Billingsley.

Soloists were bass Peter Gutierrez, soprano Kathryn Broadwater, tenor Matthew Marquez, bass Jericole Syrus and bass Logan Soberanis.

The final song of the night was Micheal Jackson’s “Thriller” by Rod Temperton and arranged by Mark Brymer. The soloists were tenor Mario Aguayo, bass Logan Soberanis, soprano Destiny Tenor and tenor Alexandria Miller. With Alexander Gomez on bass guitar and Logan Cruz on drums.

“Today was a fun night,” Fabian Freyre, tenor chamber singer and junior studio art major, said. “I felt sad that it ended really quick, it was overall a good experience.”

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Creative writers bare their souls

Marina Bravo
Arts Editor



Marina Bravo

Janira Hernandez, Giselle Morales and Elizabeth Hansen, all senior creative writing majors, answer questions following their senior project presentations. The presentations were held Wednesday, in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room.

Faculty and classmates of senior creative writing majors, Giselle Morales, Elizabeth Hansen and Janira Hernandez, gathered at noon on Wednesday in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room for their senior project presentations.

More than 40 guests in all were engaged for each of the presented works of each presenter.

Under the guidance of Sean Brenard, professor of creative writing, each student was able to pick certain works that they've written throughout their time here at the University.

Some of these pieces that were shared even dating back to their sophomore year.

"The first assignment of the senior project class is doing a comprehensive review of all the work they've done in all their creative writing classes," Brenard said. "I encourage them to choose things that they want to make better or something they think is really good already."

The first presentation was by Hernandez who presented her two pieces titled, "Cinema" and "Mask."

She explained how she is influenced by music and how it immerses her into her creative outlet of writing.

Hernandez shared that for the two particular pieces she presented, she was heavily inspired by the album "Cinema" by the band The Marías.

Hernandez explained how these works were a reflection of her experience listening to the album and how the music connected to her and made her feel.

"It was a lot of reflecting," Hernandez said. "Remembering and looking at experiences that I tie to the specific songs."

Her two pieces had themes of grief and the universal experience of heartbreak.

"I have been working on 'Cinema' since my freshman year and 'Mask' since my junior year," Hernandez said. "I picked that album because it has so many memories for me."

The album was released back in June 2021, a year in which Hernandez shared that she experienced a lot of hardship and heartbreak.

Giselle Morales presented three pieces that she had worked on which explored themes of innocence, family and oppression. She drew her inspiration from the people and experiences around her and how they reflect a lot in her writings.

The three pieces she presented were titled, "Fireflies," "Pearl" and "Bodily Autonomy" each with their own powerful message.

"They all have some themes in correspondence to control," Morales said. "Some have themes of oppression, grief, violence innocence and some even a reflection of political issues."

In "Pearl," Morales shared how she was inspired by the love of her family and the innocence of being a kid. She explained how children have this way of thinking because of their curiosity and innocence which inspired her.

"Bodily Autonomy" was a piece that really got the audience thinking. The piece told the story of a woman who was escaping a government breeding ground and how she planned on giving herself an abortion.

In the action of doing so she is hallucinating her baby eating her from the inside.

"I wrote this piece about two years ago, when they began denying women the right to an abortion in the Southern States," Morales said. "In my life, I am constantly thinking of these systemic issues."

Hansen presented a total of six poems with different imagery and influences from American poet Jean Valentine. Her works explored themes of romantization.

"Refrigerator Waltz" was the title of one of her pieces that had a lot of visual imagery for the audience in the form of writing.

She explained how her goal was to create a tangible image from a sensation.

After the presentations, each student was open for a Q&A where audience members would be able to ask questions about specific works or their experiences in their writing processes.

"I think that they're leaning into the things that they're passionate about," Brenard said. "Whether it be music, relationships, body horror– these are some really mature writers."

The next senior project presentations will feature students, Giselle Morales, Natalia Rodriguez, Gonzalo Felix and Richard Becerra. They will take place at noon Nov. 6 in the Ludwick Sacred Space.

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'Holding Up the Sky' exhibit



Vicente Rodriguez

Director of Art Galleries Dion Johnson speaking to Professor of Political Science Jason Neidleman at the opening reception for the show "Holding Up the Sky" Tuesday evening in the Harris Gallery. This exhibit, curated by Ruby Osorio, showcases six different artists whose work described the dynamic relationship between spiritual space and physical space. It runs through Dec. 4. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Panel...

Continued from page 2

stalking – by an intimate partner in their lifetime, according to the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Graduate student Frankee Puentes emphasized the importance of advocacy.

"Creating spaces where survivors can come and share their stories is important. I think no one has better knowledge than those who have lived through domestic violence and have experienced it firsthand," Puentes said.

The House of Ruth collaborates with law enforcement and other agencies to protect and support victims. Another speaker, Jessica-Marie, explained their collaboration with an officer throughout their training of domestic violence.

Advocates and staff must go through a state-mandated 40 hour domestic violence training. The speakers went through training until they were able to answer the 24 hour hotline, help in the children's program, represent at events, resource tables and more.

If you are experiencing domestic violence, call House of Ruth at 909-623-4364, the Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-SAFE.

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

Water polo sinks against Occidental

Karina Rodriguez
Sports Editor



Joseph Nocero

La Verne junior utility Richard Montanez prepares to pass to a teammate against Occidental on Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center. La Verne junior attacker Jordan Baker helps him defend against Occidental's Quin Concannon, sophomore center forward, and Ocean Pogorel, senior attacker. The Leopards lost, 14-11, against Occidental.

The men's water polo team lost against Occidental, 14-11, Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center.

Head coach Robert Echeverria said he believed the Leopards did a great job at attacking the Tigers, despite the score.

"I think movement on the half core offense really helped generate other opportunities for us," Echeverria said.

La Verne made mistakes during the final quarter which Echeverria believes harmed the Leopards.

"I think we played well for three quarters and then after that we kind of ran out of gas," Echeverria said."We made some crucial mistakes that Oxy did a really good job on capitalizing."

During the first quarter, La Verne scored three goals and Occidental scored four. One of La Verne's goals was scored by junior utility player Josh Lamberton at 2:59 in the first quarter. Lamberton credits finding perfect angles in the water to his two goals scored during the game.

"I guess, it's a lot of angles in the water," Lamberton said. "If you can find the right angle, the open goal should be there."

Lamberton also credits his successes in the water to his teammates.

"I would say having good chemistry with the team makes it easier setting picks with each other and fast ball movement," Lamberton said.

Freshman utility player William Roby Ulkovich scored a goal at 6:37 in the second quarter for the Leopards. The Tigers followed and scored two consecutive goals. Junior attacker Tommy Gibson and junior utility player Timothy Robles scored a goal each, narrowing the gap between the Leopards and the Tigers. Occidental followed with two consecutive goals and junior utility player Jordan Baker scored the last goal of the second quarter. Occidental led, 8-7, going into halftime. Gibson granted La Verne two more consecutive goals in the third quarter at 4:56 and 4:28 to give the Leopards the lead, 9-8. Gibson credits his teammates' help in being able to score two goals in under a minute.

"I was looking at Jordan hoping he would pass it and he did and I stepped out and scored," Gibson said. "I wouldn't have been able to do that without him, without my teammates setting me up so great."

Gibson also said that his success in the water was also due to the fact that he was able to trick Occidental's players.

"Today I played center and I don't usually play center so we were trying to psych them out with that and it worked for the most part," Gibson said.

Occidental scored a goal after Gibson's two goals, followed by a goal from Lamberton then a final goal from Occidental. The score was tied at 10 going into the fourth quarter. However, the quarter started off with four consecutive goals by Occidental, widening the margin to 14-10. Baker scored the last goal for the Leopards at 1:19 bringing the final score to 14-11.

"I was playing a bit more physically than usual which has been a goal of mine for a while so that was working out," Baker said.

"I think a lot of it is mindset, for sure, having the right mindset and playing a little bit more realistic," Baker said.

The Leopards lost to Redlands, 14-10, Wednesday at the La Verne Aquatic Center to fall to 8-14 overall and 1-7 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

They will face Pomona-Pitzer at 1 p.m. on Nov. 1 in Claremont.

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Football ends losing streak

The La Verne Leopards beat the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens, 26-8, on Saturday at Merritt Field in Claremont, marking the team's very first victory since Nov. 11, 2023.

Head coach Richard Sanchez credits the win to the offense's performance.

"The overwhelming difference was that our offense was able to produce first downs and did a great job on third and they sustained some incredible drives with points at the end," Sanchez said.

The Leopards' work is still not done, of course.

"We can't just sit and continue to celebrate a victory even though it was epic in this program," Sanchez said.

"So now we got to get back and continue to improve."

Junior running back Jimmy Rumsey scored a touchdown during the first quarter.

The victory against Pomona-Pitzer meant a lot to Rumsey as he has been with the team since his freshman year.

"It felt like a big weight lifted off of my shoulders… seeing all the progress in your hard work paying off," Rumsey said.

"Looking at how the team celebrated left me with so much happiness, one of the top three feelings I've ever had," Rumsey said.

Throughout the game, sophomore kicker Joshua Workizer assisted the team with multiple successful field goals and extra point kicks.

"It felt amazing once time ran out and emotions were running through the roof, crying tears of joy," Workizer said.

Workizer also said how gratifying the victory against the Sagehens' was for the Leopards.

"All of us were just so proud and happy that we finally earned what we have been working so hard for," Workizer said.

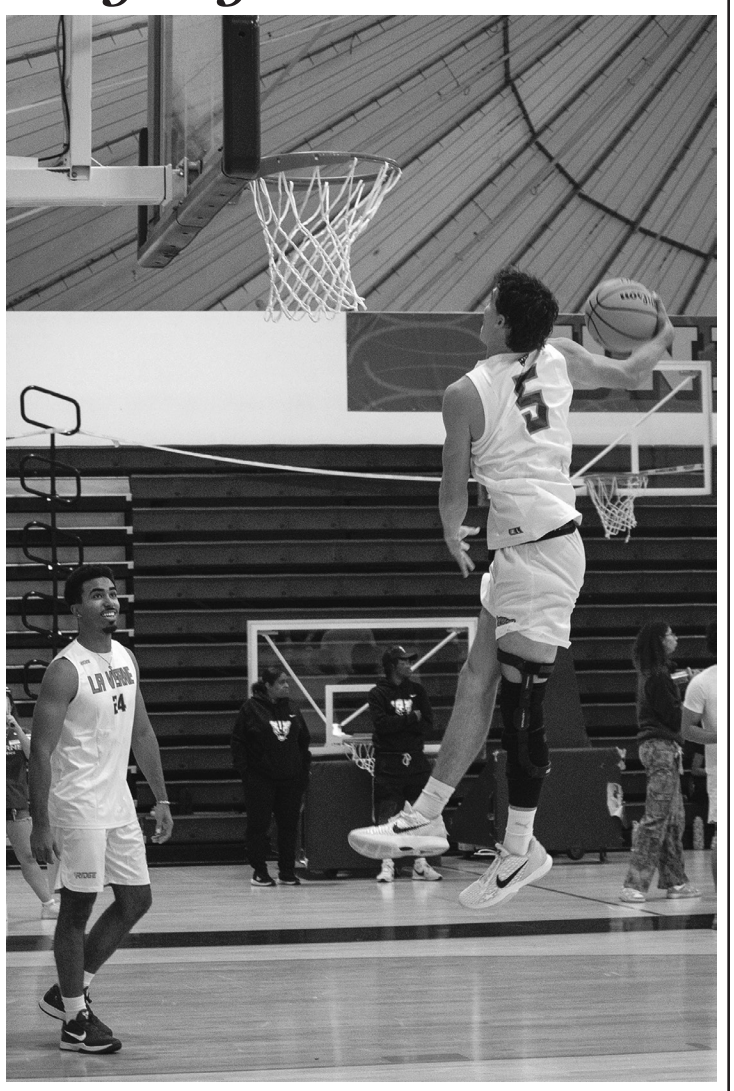
Junior running back Tyler McCown scored during the second and fourth quarter.

"We know what winning feels like and we want to continue to get that feeling week in and week out," McCown said. "This only drives us more to keep going and winning."

The Leopards are currently 1-5 overall and 1-4 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Conference. They will face the Redlands Bulldogs at 1 p.m. Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium.

—Karina Rodriguez

Moonlight Madness highlights basketball



Aaliyah Alamillo

Junior communications major Caike Godoy and sophomore accounting major Jack Bannon, both members of the men's basketball team, practice at Frantz Athletic Court at Moonlight Madness on Tuesday. The event provided a kickoff for the men's and women's basketball seasons.

Volleyball continues winning streak

Rubbie Chavez
Staff Writer

The volleyball team remains undefeated after a 3-0 sweep against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court.

The first set of the game started off strong with offense putting up points to give the Leopards the lead. After a back-and-forth match, CMS fought back, putting up 20 points against La Verne

The Leopards had big plays from senior outside hitter Mya Ray and junior opposite Alanna Jones that helped secure the Leopards win in the first set, 25-20.

Jones had four kills and five blocks against the Athenas.

‘’Winning all the long rallies, those are key for a momentum game, and I think we did a really good job at keeping the ball off the ground,’’ Jones said. ‘’We put on a show.’’

In the second set the Leopards started where they left off with a strong 6-1 lead. Keilani Mumolo, graduate student libero, kept the ball in the air with the help of her team and allowed Leopards to hold their lead.

‘’I have to credit my team… It’s not about me at all…I’m just really proud of how we came out,’’ Mumolo said. ‘’I think our mentality from start to finish was just take care of it, and I think we showcased that tonight.’’

Mumolo put up five assists and led the team in digs with putting up 16 against CMS.

La Verne took set two, 25-20.

Set three started off with CMS attacking the Leopards early on. The Athenas capitalized on errors that the Leopards were making, giving them a big lead.

The points the Athenas made didn’t stop offense and defense from the Leopards as they continued to win long sets. The game changed as the Leopards started to trail only four points behind the Athenas giving them the green light to capitalize on momentum.

During the third set big attacks from junior opposite Abigail Montana gave the Leopards the lead.

Montana was a consistent player throughout the game, but she truly solidified her performance in the third set.

‘’At the end right there, I kind of picked it up and just did the best I could to help my team win this game,’’ Montana said. ‘’At the end there it was looking like a fourth step, but we came back and all the energy in the gym from the stands, to on the court, and the bench, everyone was just amazing.’’

Montana put up four kills and 11 attacks against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

La Verne went on to win set three against CMS from a late comeback to finish off at 25-20 again.

La Verne assistant coach Ayana Mier said she was proud of the team’s performance and the work they have been putting in to keep their record undefeated.

‘’We’ve been having some really good practices and rolling through these games, every position did a really great job tonight, so a big testament to our team,’’ Mier said.

She is confident in the team’s next match up against Cal Lutheran.

‘’We went to five with Cal Lutheran last time, but we’re a way different team than we were back then. I’m really looking for an exciting match,’’ Mier said.

The Leopards beat the Regals in a three-set sweep to put their record at 21-0 overall and 12-0 in SCIAC play..

They will next host Caltech at 7 p.m. Friday at Frantz Athletic Court.

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Rylee Fournier

Junior opposite Abigail Montana spikes the ball over the net Saturday against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps at Frantz Athletic Court, helping lead the Leopards to another victory. Her powerful play contributes to La Verne’s 3–0 sweep, keeping the Leopards undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the nation. The Leopards’ next match is against the Caltech Beavers.

Leopard Scoreboard

At the Buzzer

Volleyball, October 24
La Verne - 3
Pomona-Pitzer - 1

Women’s Soccer, October 24
La Verne - 0
UC Santa Cruz - 2

Football, October 24
La Verne - 26
Pomona-Pitzer - 8

Men’s Soccer, October 24
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps - 1
La Verne - 1

Volleyball, October 28
La Verne - 3
Cal Lutheran - 0

Schedule

Friday
Volleyball vs. Caltech, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Men’s and women’s cross country @ Claremont, SCIAC Championships 8:30 a.m.
Men’s and women’s swimming and diving @ Mt. SAC, 9 a.m.
Men’s water polo @ Pomona-Pitzer, 11 a.m.
Women’s soccer @ Chapman, 11 a.m.
Football vs. Redlands, 1 p.m.
Men’s water polo @ Golden West, 2 p.m.

Monday
Men’s basketball @ UC San Diego, 7 p.m.

Tuesday
Men’s soccer vs. TBD, SCIAC Tournament
Volleyball @ Redlands, 7 p.m.

Volleyball Standings

	SCIAC	Overall
La Verne	**12-0**	**21-0**
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps	9-3	15-6
Cal Lutheran	7-4	14-5
Whittier	7-5	15-9
Redlands	6-6	12-8
Chapman	5-7	12-8
Pomona-Pitzer	5-8	10-11
Occidental	2-9	10-13
Caltech	0-11	4-19