Campus Times

February 13, 2026 | Serving the University of La Verne Community Since 1919 | Vol. 134, No. 14



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Faculty votes 'yes' on protest policy

Compromise reached with admins

Olivia Russo
Editor-in-Chief

The Faculty Assembly unanimously approved a revised "Policy on Assembly and Demonstrations" for protests on campus on Wednesday. The policy now goes to the provost and president for final approval.

The compromise policy comes almost a year after the Faculty Assembly voted to reject a demonstration policy put forth by the administration, which called for pre-clearance by Campus Safety among others, it also restricted the type of signs that could be carried, and required any campus protest to end by 8 p.m.

Even though the faculty had rejected the administration's policy, administrators put it in place until a new compromise policy could be worked out.

Jason Neidleman, professor of political science, and Alessandro Morosin, assistant professor of sociology and criminology, have worked for the last several months with Juan Regalado, dean of students, to hammer out a compromise policy.

"The first draft we got back really integrated a lot of the suggestions we made," Neidleman said at the Faculty Assembly meeting. "It essentially reframed the policy away from the authority of administrators to shut down a demonstration to the rights of the expression of the students to demonstrate."

The compromise policy allows for spontaneous demonstrations to occur on campus, but they should not exceed an hour.

Demonstrations that are to happen overnight must get approval by Campus Safety and the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement.

Law enforcement can still be contacted if safety concerns are not resolved, but only if the University has exhausted all other options of stopping the unsafe conditions.

Regalado will now bring the policy to top administrators and University council for the final approval.

The policy approved Wednesday went through many revisions. In December 2025, the Faculty Assembly declined to endorse the policy, giving both Morosin and Niedleman suggestions on how to fix it.

"There's a little bit of blood on the floor on this, and I think we've done a good job," George Keeler, Faculty Assembly president and professor of journalism, said during the Wednesday meeting.

"This is not our policy, it's not the administration's policy, but a compromise and it seems to be a really good compromise," Keeler added.

After the assembly meeting, Niedleman met with Regalado to discuss the faculty-approved draft and both agreed to move the proposed policy to focus on student expression.

The policy had been reviewed by top administrators and general counsel before the Assembly meeting Wednesday, so an official pass is expected.

"I feel significant improvement of what was originally presented to us last spring, and then even the beginning of fall," Morosin said.

"It doesn't have everything that I would be happiest (with) but this is a lot better. And it's a product of everybody coming together and voicing where they're coming from based on our University values."

In March 2025 Regalado shared the administration's initial "Policy on Assembly and Demonstrations" with the Faculty Assembly. It raised concerns immediately with the faculty who felt it inhibited their free speech at a time when students and faculty have so much to protest.

"We want to make it happen in the way that the University would support from an impartial and in spirit perspective…," Regalado said at Wednesday's Assembly meeting. "We've added things, I wanted to make sure we had as much consensus as possible to get."

The compromise draft is very different from the original.

"It's fairly protective of student expressions, but it also gives the University a lot of authority to break up a demonstration," Niedleman said. "My personal opinion is that it doesn't go far enough to protect student expression."

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

On the Cover

Freshman swimmer Jordan Clarke races in the 100-yard breaststroke event Saturday at La Verne Aquatic Center. Clarke won with a time of 1:10.84. The Leopards held their Senior Day against Caltech, who beat the men's teams, 195-45, and the women's teams, 179-56. The Leopards will compete in the SCIAC Champsionships Wednesday through Saturday at East Los Angeles College. / photo by Liberty Belle

Cástula de la Rocha College of Health Dean's List, Fall 2025

The following students in the College of Health and Community Well-Being earned a grade point average of 3.75 or better during the Fall 2025 semester. Congratulations from Dean Katy Tangenberg and Associate Dean Jerry Kernes.

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Leonardo Aguilar
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Hailey Coria
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Giovanni Garcia
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Kasey Gillis
Jasmine Gonzalez
Marcel Gonzalez
Ruby Gonzalez
Miranda Graham
Keilani Greer
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Jasmine Gutierrez
Jaden Guzman
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Sean Hernandez
Paige Hien
Jack Holguin
Aaron Hotchkiss
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Vanessa Javalera
Taishika Jenkins
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Destinee Jimmerson
Lacey Jolly
Ahsha Jones
Alanna Jones
Mia Jones
Elizabeth Joyce
Jaiden Kelly
Salwa Khan
Morgan Klep
Kylee Knight
Shreyas Kumaresh
Madison Lakkees
Megan Lakkees
Ashlee Lam
Kaitlyn Lazo
Diego Lemus
Megan Llopis
Ashley Lo
Tania Lobato
Jacqueline Lopez
Stacie Lopez
Tyler Lopez
Vida Lopez
Aimee Lowrey
Alexander Luna
Jaylan Mahlstedt
Samira Marcelo
Matthew Marquez
Camila Martinez
David Martinez
Elizabeth Martinez
Ireland Martinez
Jacqueline Martinez
Roger Martinez
Kaili McDowell
Katie Medina
Rosalie Medina
Jessenia Mejia
Maya Mendez
Perry Mentzer
Joshua Mezquita
Craig Miller
Hideharu Miyata
Marilyn Molina
April Molina-Perez
Roseline Molinar
Emily Morales
Lexi Mount
Sophia Naranjo
Aaliyah Ocampo Rodriguez
Ireland Oring
Natalia Ortiz
Dylan Jon Pangilinan
Victor Pena
Zenen Pena
Brooke Petretti
Aliyah Pollock
Michelle Powell
David Pycz
Keren Quintana
Tabasum Rahemi
Eliana Ramirez
Stephanie Ramirez
Dylan Reiner
Salim Rizk
Diana Rocha
Gya Rodriguez
Jillian Rodriguez
Tiffany Rodriguez
Charlotte Romero
Destiny Ruiz
Mark Saad
Destiny Saillant
Sofia Salas
Emily Saldivar
Jonathan Saldivar
Dallas Salgado
Raul Sandoval Jr.
Rach'el Scott
Sydney Sensat
Janine Lee Brigette Sevillana
Niani Shields
Bryce Shroyer
Andrea Silva
Alexandria Silver
Kristen Smick
Cory Smykla
Yash Sohal
Ellie Sorter
Alina Stannard
Geneva Still
Mia Tanner
Aiden Tapia-Palacios
Brady Thompson
Tristan Mark Trinidad Guzman
Khalea Turingan
Sophia Vargas
Javier Vasquez
Allyson Villa
Mikayla Villavicencio
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Campus Times
Spring 2026

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

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

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Decker spotlights inclusive teaching

Cassidy Diaz
Assistant Editor

For Jessica Decker, professor of teacher education, lifelong learning and advocating for inclusivity in education continue to grow for her as an educator and student.

Decker presented "Insights from Sabbatical: Returning to the Life of a Student," for the La Verne Academy series at noon, Tuesday, in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room.

During her spring of 2025 sabbatical, Decker entered a new era of parenting, life and education that led her to enroll in classes here at the University, and support her daughter through health issues and learning disabilities. high sc

"My daughter Avery's eighth-grade year of school was really the tipping point that led to what I did with my sabbatical," Decker said. "She's on an individualized education plan so she does not learn like most other people."

Decker discussed her own frustration as a parent who felt her child's education was not being supported.

This led Decker to explore the world of special education and inclusive education, which brings inclusivity and curriculum together in general education classrooms.

So when planning her sabbatical project, Decker made the decision to earn her education specialist credential here at the University to get a better understanding of the divide between general education and special education teaching.

"I enrolled in classes here and sat next to some of the very same students who I had taught the prior semester," Decker said. "They were confused, but it was a lot of fun."

Decker is currently student-teaching two-to-three times a week in a high school special education class to find the divide between perspective components in classrooms.

"I started on this journey in terms of just thinking about what are the cultural components, the social components of these various groups of general education teachers, special education teachers and parents and how they function together," Decker said.

Decker learned about co-teaching, where you have one classroom with two teachers, a general educator and a special educator, working together to educate their students.

"Being a parent in the process of an IEP with my daughter means having regular meetings at the school with teachers, administrators and psychologists, and documentation of what's working and what's not," Decker said.

Decker said her new broadened perspective allows her to share her story with her graduate students here so they know better what they are getting into when entering the teaching profession.

There are a lot of pieces to working in special education, and IEPs, such as writing goals, benchmark goals and assessing students, including using higher level intelligence assessments done by psychologists.

Special education teachers themselves have to do assessments in different content areas and have to understand how to interpret them.

"One thing is to just meet students where they are," said Jason Neidleman, professor of political science, reflecting on Decker's talk. "You have to be more creative and determined in terms of how you make sure that you're teaching your students in the best way they're capable of learning."

"Jessica talked about relationship building," said Valerie Beltran, professor of teacher education who also attended the Tuesday talk. "The important matter … is if we are making connections and building relationships with our students," Beltran said. "Because if we don't do that then our students don't feel safe to question, to disagree, to really do the critical thinking."

Decker is currently co-writing a manuscript about her experience educating general education teachers about special education and the various perspectives in classrooms.

Cassidy Diaz can be reached at ***cassidy.diazgomez@laverne.edu.***

College of Arts & Sciences Dean's List, Fall 2025

The following students in the College of Arts and Sciences earned a grade point average of 3.75 or better during the Fall 2025 semester. Congratulations from Dean Shannon Mathews and Associate Deans Ngoc Bui and Gerard Lavatori.

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Jadan Alvarez
Janessa Alvarez
Jaidynn Alvarez
Abigail Ampong
Janeth Angeles-Corona
Arleen Anguiano
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Monique Arambula
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Syra Arian
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Jayden Gaines
Aidan Galindo
Alejandra Garcia
Jayleen Garcia
Klarissa Garcia
Samantha Garcia
Hailey Garcia
Liberty Garcia
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Natalie Gomez
Ricardo Gomez
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Ella Zazueta

Clubs make pitch for new members

Aniyha Williams
Staff Writer



Antonio Ceniceros

Senior criminology major Nicolas Saenz and junior kinesiology major Logan Ciszek, care challenged by the University of La Verne's Black Student Union president Shane Williams and social media chair Jai'la Counts to answer a question correctly for a prize at their booth at the Involvement Fair on Wednesday in the Abraham Campus Center. The Black Student Union will host a game night in collaboration with Cal Poly Pomona's Black Student Union in the Abraham Campus Center Ballrooms at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

About 150 students gathered Wednesday for the Involvement Fair featuring a comics and anime theme.

The event in the Campus Center, was hosted by the office of student engagement and leadership in collaboration and the University chapter of the American Marketing Association.

The fair showcased a variety of clubs and organizations including Alpha Psi Omega, the theater honor society, the University's film society, and CRU Bible study group, along with many other student groups offering a beginning-of-semester opportunity for students to get involved.

CRU, or Campus Crusade for Christ, is an interdenominational Christian parachute organization with numerous college chapters.

Alpha Psi Omega raises money for campus theatre productions and brings awareness of theater opportunities on campus.

"A lot of people think that because it is only a theater program, others a part of the University or campus life can't join and can't be a part of the organization," said the group's president Mya Traylor. "However, I myself am a business major in marketing and love being a part of a welcoming, inclusive and community-based establishment."

Students who want to be part of this theater group must participate in two semesters helping in backstage theater to accumulate points.

The CRU Bible study group also aims to build community through their Christianity.

Specifically, its student members engage with the New Testament.

"CRU… strives to teach others about Jesus and his word all while building community through meaningful discussions in a safe space," said Kera Bush, senior psychology major and CRU member.

The film society offers short films and movie screenings twice a month. This month, to mark Black History Month, the group teamed up with Sisters of Essence, part of the Black Student Union, for a screening of "Till," a film based on the true story of the mother of Emmett Till, and her pursuit of justice following the 1955 lynching of her 14-year-old son.

"The most important thing about the ULV film society is that it's a social club that invites students to come together and enjoy films together, as well as educating others about how films reflect our own lives," said Aaliyah Bogarin, sophomore digital media major.

For more information about the many clubs and organizations on campus, visit **laverne.edu/student-life/student-organizations**.

Aniyha Williams can be reached at ***aniyha.williams@laverne.edu***.

La Verne students prefer high-end makeup

Donya Rouzbehi
Sports Editor

Twelve out of 20 La Verne students who wear makeup said they prefer high-end makeup over drugstore cosmetics, in a recent survey on campus.

Popular brands include Lady Gaga's Haus Labs and Merit Beauty. Haus Labs is known to incorporate very clean and good quality ingredients, such as arnica, making their products acne-safe.

However, some people in the survey said they prefer drugstore products for the price, convenience and sometimes similar quality to the expensive products.

Specifically, drugstore concealers, such as Maybelline and NYX, are quite popular according to the survey. drugstore mascara as well, including brands such as L'Oreal.

Those who prefer drugstore mascara said it is a staple and part of their "must-have" makeup products. Brooke Herrick, a senior child development major, has always preferred drugstore mascara to high-end mascara.

"Personally, I feel that drug store mascara has always performed better than high end mascara," Herrick said. "Although I have my favorite products that I will always buy, I never have a problem trying something new on the drug store – or high end side.

However, when it comes to skin-care and heavier makeup products, such as foundation or blush, the higher end brands are popular.

Mellanie Grbavac, a junior psychology major, said that skin care and makeup go hand-in-hand, and that they're both worth investing in for the sake of healthy skin.

"As someone who cares about what they're putting on their skin, most of my products tend to be high end," Grbavac said. "I use Tower28 which is skin care as makeup. I'm not only just putting on makeup but I'm also taking care of my skin at the same time."

The general consensus was that if you wear makeup every day, especially for long periods of time for either work or events, they want to make sure they're applying safe and natural ingredients to prevent skin issues.

Aastha Baral, a junior computer science major, makes a point in being conscious of what products you're using if you're prone to break-outs.

"It depends on the person's skin," Baral said. "But for me, most of my makeup is high end. I have sensitive skin so I try not to use anything that breaks me out."

When asked what they would use for the rest of their lives, the majority of them would choose high-end makeup.

They chose the more expensive products because of their typical better quality and safer ingredients.

But a majority of people chose drug store makeup to stick with for the rest of their lives. Many claimed it was because of their very similar quality to the expensive brands, but cheaper price which sold them.

Rania Kartouch, a senior political-science major, has always chosen drug store makeup. She said she'd rather invest in clothes and shoes than makeup, since a lot of the products, high-end or not, are made up of the same ingredients and economical.

"If I had to pick, I'd choose drug store makeup," Kartouch said. "It's cheaper and if you do some research on what's in the products, it tends to be the same as the expensive stuff."

Makeup has become a booming industry that contributes to a lot of trends lately, especially among Gen Z. People all over the world use makeup. Some use makeup casually and some have their own professional makeup studio.

Many would argue makeup is an art form. It can be a beautiful and artistic way for people to express themselves around the world. There has always been a competition between high-end makeup products and drugstore products.

High-end makeup usually has the reputation of having cleaner and "safer" ingredients for all skin types. More expensive products also usually last longer due to the better quality, which prompts people to invest.

Makeup is subjective to people and mainly depends on their preference on quality and concerns surrounding their skin health. Some use it to express themselves and experiment while others buy what is familiar to them, regardless of pricing.

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

Students voice political opinions

Marina Bravo
Arts Editor



Marina Bravo

Latino Student Forum president and senior biology major Sophie Santana urges guests to show up and show out at important events in their communities. Santana stressed that it is crucial to go out and take action at the Open Mic event Tuesday on Citrus Lawn.

The Latino Student Forum created an environment of community and inclusivity as they welcomed students and ULV community members to their Open Mic. This event granted students the opportunity to share their feelings about the current political climate and state of the world.

The Open Mic was held Tuesday at Citrus Lawn. Along with the LSF, Director of Multicultural Affairs Daniel Loera hosted the event. There were about 20 people in attendance. There was pan dulce and chocolate Abuelita being offered. "What we wanted to do was to bring light to the darkness," Kesia Loma Quintero, junior biology major and LSF treasurer said. "It is important to express ourselves and have a platform to do it on campus."

Before the Open Mic was open, to the public to speak, Loera began the event by honoring the land of the Tongva people.

"Part of this was made to create a space so that we don't feel that we're the only people feeling and experiencing this," Loera said. "People are living in two different realities right now," Loera said. "You can be living a normal life and be attuned and turn to your left and it is absolute chaos."

At the event there were tables for students and ULV staff to gather at and take the time to answer the questions that were on each table.

"With all that is going on ,what is something you want others to hear? With all that is going on, what is something you are struggling with? With all that is going on, what has brought you joy recently even in small ways?"

University alumna and counselor at Mt. San Antonio College, Yasmin Cardona presented a poem she wrote that she dedicated to migrants and to her dad. The powerful piece explored themes of fear, systemic issues and social injustices, reminding everyone that unity is powerful.

"If we stop asking permission to live in a world we already sustained," Cardona said. "If we choose each other again, we will get there."

LSF president and senior biology major, Sophie Santana, urged her peers and community members to come together and participate in their community.

"I do encourage you to go to your local city hall meetings," Santana said. "We cannot just repost on Instagram, we can't just come out here today, this is a movement that has to be continuous. We need to work together." The Open Mic featured expression through music. Assistant sociology and criminology professor Alessandro Morosin and assistant professor of music Victoria Romano came together to perform a Yiddish traditional song titled "Ale Brider," which stands for We're All Brothers.

"Joy is resistance," Romano said. "This meaning found in this song was passed down and is actually from the 19th century when there were pogroms in Europe."

"This song survived and made its way," Romano said. "It survived down through generations and now I can share it today."

Although the topics of the events were heavy, the community that came together was able to celebrate each other by being present and for each other's expression. It was a testament that that one can find community.

"Everyone's voice, presence, expression whatever it is, it matters," Jasmine Gutierrez, senior psychology major, LSF member and IDEAS club president said. "Everyone should come together and celebrate but most importantly listen to each other."

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

Commentary

Bad Bunny champions Super Bowl LX



MARINA BRAVO

At the halftime mark, Super Tazón LX undeniably became a party. Audience members from all over, in person and more than 135 million watching on their TV or mobile device, were immersed into the celebration that was Bad Bunny's performance.

Highlighting and celebrating Puerto Rico and the Latino community, the reggaeton singer dominated the stage as he became the very first artist to do a full Spanish set despite those who doubted him. In only 13 minutes Bad Bunny transformed Super Bowl LX to be a celebration of love. Leading up to Sunday, he released an Apple Music advertisement that promised "the world would dance."

The performance began with a wide shot of workers harvesting sugar-cane and then he introduced himself with his full name, Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio.

Despite the negative comments from many, that did not stop Ocasio from bringing his authentic sound to the game and did not stop him from being authentically himself.

Latinos are very notorious for having long names, often being a punchline. However, Hollywood only uses it when it benefits them. Many Latino celebrities and artists cut their names and keep only the "American sounding" ones.

For Ocasio to take the stage and not introduce himself as Bad Bunny but use his full name was a statement in itself.

Opening with "Tití Me Preguntó" Ocasio took us to a cultural celebration paying homage to Puerto Rico. Playing Bad Bunny classics like "Yo Perreo Sola" and "Safaera," Ocasio had many fun and energetic elements to his performance.

From cameos of street vendors, abuelitos playing domino, a female dance montage to well known Latino celebrities including, Cardi B, Pedro Pascal and Karol G partying at La Casita.

As Ocasio danced and performed through his set, he highlighted various Puerto Rican legends. Songs by Don Omar, Tego Calderón, Héctor El Father and Daddy Yankee played during an intermission as he traveled the stadium on a pickup.

A prolific and jaw dropping moment was when a couple got married during his set, which transitioned and revealed his guest singer Lady Gaga as she sang a salsa rendition of her song "Die With A Smile."

"BAILE INoLVIDABLE" set the tone for the rest of the performance. Dancers young and old joined Ocasio as he sang and urged everyone watching to love and to dance without fear. An infectious dance break as he made his way to the turf.

His message of love also echoes his message that anyone could do anything as long as they believe in themselves. A family of three was seen watching Ocasio's recent Grammy Acceptance speech for Album of the Year on a small television set. Ocasio then handed his Grammy to the little boy who was a symbol of his younger self and reiterated his message that anything is possible.

Throughout the rest of his set Ocasio let the music speak for itself as an act of protest and reminder of what specifically Puerto Rico has gone through. Playing songs like "LO QUE LE PASÓ A HAWAii" sung by guest singer Ricky Martin and "El Apagón" to amplify this truth.

The ending of his performance continued to be a celebration of all countries of Latino America during his performances of "CAFé CON RON" and "DTMF." Ocasio shouted, "God Bless America" and named all countries across the Americas and named the United States along with them. Having his dancers carrying their flags across the field.

As he danced off the stadium carrying a football that says "Together We Are America," chanting his song, the jumbotrons projected the message "THE ONLY THING GREATER THAN HATE IS LOVE."

Ocasio rocked the nation with his performance. To me, it showed how powerful it is to join together during these trying times. It served as a reminder that together we are powerful and that we should celebrate our differences and to stand together through this fight.

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

Happenings

Valentine's Day Cabaret

The University of La Verne Chamber Singers and Chorale will perform a Valentine's Day Concert at 7 p.m. on Friday in Morgan Auditorium.

The concert is directed by Clarissa Shan and features Songmi Choi on piano as well as other soloists.

Admission is $10.

'AIR 2026: Compulsion'

The American Museum of Ceramic Art's latest exhibit "AIR 2026: Compulsion" opened in January.

The exhibition will highlight each of the artists' work at their time as resident artists.

There will be a tour of the exhibition on Saturday.

For more information, visit **amoca.org/future-exhibitions/compulsion.**

Claremont Free Friday

The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art will host its monthly "free Friday" this Friday.

Admission is free from noon to 7 p.m.

For this month's event, guests can see the exhibit "She Opens the Door: Women Artists and Writers Shape Language and Space."

This exhibit spotlights women creative writers along with artists from Claremont and the greater Los Angeles area.

For more information, visit **business.claremontchamber.org/events.**

Sasse Show has 'Vision'

The Sasse Museum of Art in Pomona opened the "When Vision Refuses to Explain" exhibit on Feb. 6, curated by Shuai Xu.

The exhibition focuses on the art speaking for itself rather than explaining it.

The reception will be held on Feb. 15 and the exhibition will run until Feb. 27. For more information, visit **sasseartmuseum.org/exhibits2026-when_vision_efuses_to_explain.htm.**

—Olivia Russo

Exhibit spotlights women

Artists, writers

by Natalia Rodriguez

photography by Amore Mason



One of the gallery spaces at the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art features the "She Opens the Door" exhibition on Sunday. The exhibit features nine female artists and a handful of writers who showcase their contemporary works that make the viewer think differently about gender, society and community The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art in the Claremont Village is open Thursday through Sunday.

The "She Opens the Door: Women Artists and Writers Shape Language and Space" art exhibit is on display at the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art.

The show highlights women's contemporary artwork and how the pieces interact with each other.

The artists featured in the exhibition include Lisa Anne Auerbach, Ako Castuera, Adrian Culverson, Mercedes Dorame, Kari Gatzke, Emily Joyce, Amy Maloof, Maria Maea and Elana Mann.

The exhibit also features written responses to accompany the artwork by writers Genevieve Kaplan, Chloe Martinez, Cynthia Adam Prochaska, Prageeta Sharma, Cherene Sherrard-Johnson and Vickie Vertiz.

Exhibit curator Martinez, a religious studies professor at Claremont McKenna College, said she was curious to know the kind of artwork women artists in her area were working on and thinking about.

She also wanted to know what it would look like if women writers wrote responses to the pieces.

"Many of the artworks deal with community and environment and connection in really interesting ways, and I think that the writings reflected that," Martinez said.

"They're really joyful for me to make," said Culverson, an artist and adjunct professor of art at Citrus College. Three of Culverson's pieces are in the show.

Culverson's piece, "Horse," focuses on form and abstraction with an emphasis on color – pinks and greens, that coat the miniature horses within a frame.

She said horses symbolize freedom to her, the idea of a horse running through a meadow. "Just kind of taking yourself wherever you'd like to go," she said.

Mann's piece, "Call to Arms," is a sculpture in the shape of an arm with a cupped hand.

At the center of the palm is a small hole, while the interior is hollow, and the upper arm opens up at the end into a much larger hole.

While the piece was initially modeled after antique hearing aids and intended to be an analog one, Mann said that witnessing someone use the piece as a megaphone inspired her to create another version.

"The sculpture is really about the resiliency of the human voice and of people rising up to descent, to speak up, to speak truth to power, to fight against censorship, to fight for freedom of speech," Mann said. "That's been the focus of the piece for the past 10 years."

Wintana Tsegaye, a junior legal studies major at the University of La Verne, attended the show Saturday during the monthly Claremont Art Walk said this piece's message resonated with her.

"As a black, queer woman in America, I almost always feel like I'm silenced," Tsegaye said. "I feel like resistance is to speak up and to kind of just be yourself."

Another ULV student who attended the art walk, Amyah Smith, a junior political science major, enjoyed looking at Auerbach's "Democracy, Autocracy, Theocracy," a collection of three red and black wool pieces unraveling at the ends.

"I am a political science major, so I tend to see things through a different viewpoint, and I feel like it was pretty accurate," Smith said. "It gave a physical example to how many of us could feel."

"I hope that people who go to the exhibit might come away from it thinking about ways they want to make more art or look at more art or think about art in their own everyday lives in new ways," Martinez said.

The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art, on First Street in Claremont, is open Thursday through Sunday. The "She Opens the Door: Women Artists and Writers Shape Language and Space" exhibit runs until Mar. 22.

For more information, visit **clmoa.org**.

Natalia Rodriguez can be reached at ***natalia.rodriguez@laverne.edu***.

Softball scrimmages with alumni

Leopards prep for '26 season

Lila Gongora
Staff Writer

The Leopards' softball team defeated a team of alumni, 2-0, Saturday at Campus West.

They celebrated 60 years of softball at La Verne with a four-inning scrimmage, home run derby and hit-a-thon event.

The players saw it as an opportunity for them to reconnect with one another, and the current Leopards were able to prove themselves to prior generations and former teammates.

"It's always fun to see everyone," senior Annica Luna said. "As if we were all still on the same team because after all, we're family."

The women may feel like they are on the same team off the field, but the way they play on the field tells a different story.

Freshman Alyssa Tafolla pitched the first two innings of the game, not allowing any runs.

In the bottom of the first inning, however, with Luna on third base and sophomore Janelle Vega on second, junior Kileah Lologo drove her teammates home with a two-run double for the only scoring of the game.

Though the alumni failed to score a run, they were able to prove to themselves that a player never forgets their training.

With Tafolla back on the mound, 2025 graduate Sydney Diaz hit a ground ball single.

"I still got it," Diaz said. "I got to come out and play with my teammates and it reminds me of how much I liked playing. It means a lot because I haven't picked up a bat since Senior Day, and I actually still got it."

The returners and incoming players alike said they felt a sense of connection as they competed against alumni.

With over 10 new players on the team, they were able to get a taste of what it means to be part of the team.

"I don't really know most of the alumni," freshman pitcher Angelina Garcia said. "But it was honestly fun seeing everyone and connecting with people they know and that they've played with."

Garcia closed out the game, pitching the last two innings and keeping the score unchanged.

Head coach Danielle Kaminaka explained that it is important for current players to get to know different generations of La Verne softball.

She said it offers them a chance to see what opportunities await them after a collegiate athletic career.

A desire to listen to and communicate with others is something Kaminaka hopes to see more of in the upcoming season from the team.

"I saw them all communicating, talking – we've been working on that – and making adjustments from at bat to at bat and our pitchers trying to dial in their locations," Kaminaka said. "I saw all good stuff today and we're constantly growing."

She went on to say that a big goal of the team's this year is to learn about each other off the field and use their differences to their advantage on the field. As they learn how they mesh together they are able to find a middle ground in which they can function harmoniously.

After the four-inning game an alumni home run derby took place as well as a community hit-a-thon to raise money for La Verne softball.

Lila Gongora can be reached at ***lila.gongora@laverne.edu***.



Aaliyah Alamillo

La Verne softball alumna Sydney Diaz, who graduated in 2025, laughs after a hit at Campus West on Saturday against the current softball team. Diaz celebrated with her former teammates at the exhibition game, saying she was surprised to get a hit after not picking up a bat for a whole year.

Diving head first



Liberty Belle

Senior diver Shaun Concepcion spins into a tuck while competing in the three-meter dive event Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center. Concepcion placed second with four points. Caltech beat the men's swimming and diving teams, 195-45, on Senior Day.

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Women's basketball defeats Regals

Anisa Salazar
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team pulled off a 64-56 win against first-place Cal Lutheran on Wednesday at Frantz Athletic Court. After six straight losses, the Leopards grinded defensively and were driven by their high energy throughout the game to secure the win and finally break the streak.

"We locked in defensively, this is probably our best defensive game yet," head coach Anthony Mason said. " We were in gaps, we were rebounding, we were talking. I'm so proud of the effort they put forward on the defense today."

Both teams' intensity was high from the start. La Verne junior forward Alyssa Smith set the tone early, opening up the game with the first four points. Her teammates matched the energy, putting up two shots from the three-point line. The Leopards ended the quarter in the lead, 17-9.

In the second quarter, Cal Lutheran fought back and went 7-of-13 from the free-throw line, but it was not enough. They still trailed, 32-25.

La Verne sophomore guard Jasmine Prajitno said halftime gave them the opportunity to highlight the mindset they needed to keep to finish out the game strong.

"We told each other, they're on their heels and don't really know what to do," Prajitno said. "We're exactly where we want to be, keep doing what we're doing."

Prajitno put up 15 points against the Regals, six of those coming from the three-point line. The intensity of the Leopards' defense gave her the momentum to take control.

"I love defense, and so the fact that we were all so locked into defense, I feel like it really gave me energy to execute," said Prajitno. " We were all sharing the ball and finding each other. Their energy helped me keep going."

Entering the second half, Cal Lutheran showed grit and fought to narrow the deficit to just three points, but the Leopards' offense stayed dominant and was able to widen the gap once again to start the final quarter at 46-34. Dealing with multiple player injuries throughout the season and having only about seven players since returning from break has made it difficult for the Leopards to execute winning games.

Junior guard Bella Musolff said that coming out on top against Cal Lutheran just proves how much fight they have, regardless of the circumstances.

" It feels really good," Musolff said. " I think we have gone through so much adversity this year, with injuries, people out, and having to adjust on the spot. I think that tonight we really showed what we can do with even just seven players."

Despite the challenges La Verne has dealt with this season, they have continued to stay confident in their strengths and ability to win.

"We had the energy already, and so we know we just needed to execute offensively," sophomore center Maya Sanborn said.

Neither team was afraid to show its determination to take the game. Both teams gave in to physical competitiveness, with a combined 19 free throws in the final quarter. But Cal Lutheran's attempts to come back were not enough to counter the intensity from the Leopards, closing the game out at 64-56.

"We've already been out-efforting teams and now we finally out-executed one, that's our plan for these last three games to set us up for next year," said Mason.

The team will travel to play Chapman at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Anisa Salazar can be reached at ***anisa.salazar@laverne.edu.***



Jesse Juarez

La Verne sophomore guard Jasmine Prajitno and Cal Lutheran sophomore guard Natalie Villamor battle down the court Wednesday at the Frantz Athletic Court. The Leopards won, 64-56, and Prajitno helped lead her team to victory with 15 points.

Leopards fall to Bulldogs in conference clash

Daniel Franklin
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team fell short against No. 10 Redlands, 93-85, on Feb. 4 at Frantz Athletic Court in the Athletics Pavilion.

In the first half, the Leopards kept it close with the Bulldogs. After going into halftime with a lead, they could not maintain the momentum.

" We need to clean up games coming out of halftime," junior guard Major Hurley said. " It's clear we can hang with any team in the conference but we need to start closing out the games after being up in the first half."

The Leopards slowly started to climb back but could not break away with a lead. With 10:45 on the clock in the first half, La Verne sophomore guard Higgy Katoa sank in a fast break three pointer to give the Leopards the lead, 23-22.

However, the Bulldogs responded by keeping the game within a one point differential. With 1:43 left in the half La Verne senior guard Cody Aquino drained a three pointer to gain the lead over the Bulldogs, 44-41.

The Bulldogs answered with a layup of their own, getting it to 46-43 with a minute left on the clock. La Verne junior guard Kason White sank a free throw to seal the lead for the first half for the Leopards, 46-45.

In the second half, the Leopards continued to fight to keep the lead. On the defensive end Hurley stepped up and became a real presence, racking up eight defensive rebounds.

Hurley also contributed a block and steal, and four assists against the Bulldogs.

La Verne junior guard James Christian gave the Bulldogs a tough time, scoring a career-high of 24 points, shooting 67% from the field, and four-of-five from the three.

" Honestly we just have to keep stacking days, and continue to get better day by day," he said. " We're a good team and I feel like the adversity we're going through now is going to set us up great for next year."

The Leopards trailed by 13 points with under three minutes remaining, but slowly started to creep back into the game.

Katoa drilled a three, and Christian followed up with a layup and back-to-back threes during the Leopards' last three possessions, putting the score to 91-85 with 37 seconds on the clock.

La Verne freshman guard Isaiah Bennett forced a steal and shot a three but it rattled out, and Redlands secured the win, 93-85.

" I think the only thing we can do is learn and grow from it," Katoa said. " Redlands is a top team in the country, and we were in the game essentially the whole time with them. I think that proves we're a solid team, and can compete with the best."

Aquino thinks the team will improve from this loss.

" We'll handle this by having a next game attitude and try to control what we can control." He said, " Learn what we can from the game and try to minimize those same mistakes going into the next game."

La Verne faced off against Occidental on Saturday and fell short, 83-77. The Leopards then traveled to Cal Lutheran on Wednesday and came up short, 87-80.

Next up, La Verne will hit the road again to face Chapman at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Daniel Franklin can be reached at ***daniel.franklin@laverne.edu.***