Campus Times

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Personal growth explored

Cassidy Diaz
Assistant Editor



Antonio Ceniceros

Marquisha Frost, associate vice president of inclusive excellence and mission integration, shares her perspective on topics including the importance of one's name, how community encourages accountability, and why experiences matter in establishing an identity, during her "What Matters to Me and Why" lecture. This event took place at 1 p.m. Feb. 12 in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space. There were more than 50 people in attendance. Frost created a mind map that explained to everyone in attendance what mattered to her.

The first "What Matters to Me and Why" lecture of 2026 featured Marquisha Frost, associate vice president of inclusive excellence and mission integration, who began at the University in fall 2025.

Frost's talk took place Feb. 12 in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space.

She explored personal themes of faith, family, freedom, fellowship and how they have played a role in her life.

"I think we forget about ourselves, and we go straight into all the things that are external (to) us," Frost told the audience of about 40. "And we start to talk about why those things matter," Frost said. "I believe that there is a God, and he doesn't create waste, so if you're here, you matter and there's a purpose."

Frost shared a "mind map" she created that connected all of what matters to her. Faith and family have mattered to her the most.

Freedom, fulfillment and fellowship are also important to her, she said. Entering her teenage years, she said she started to understand the impact and importance of her choices.

Faith was not forced on her, and this gave her the freedom to explore and find her passion for fellowship and service, she said.

"In Black communities, I think we spend a lot of time with one another, and we want to push one another to be better," Frost said. "We do a lot in terms of service, but we aren't (always) creating spaces for one another."

With this awareness, she created a non-profit organization called Sanctuary Collective in 2022, when she was living in Nebraska.

The Collective offers a support structure for women of all ages, abilities and careers to work toward individual and collective healing and goal attainment.

"I feel like that's what's connected me to purpose and vocation throughout my life and landed me to where I am now," Frost said. "A lot of times I find my fulfillment through serving other people."

Fulfillment for Frost, she explained, is a lasting sense of happiness and satisfaction from living a meaningful life by achieving goals, realizing your potential, living authentically and contributing to something beyond yourself.

"Being a mom is so vitally important to me," Frost said, adding, "One of the things I learned very early on … is that if you're no good to yourself, you can't be any good to anybody else."

Since beginning her position here last year, she has been seeking to understand and embody the University's mission.

"One of my goals is to leave the place better than I found it," Frost said. "What that means to me is I want to shift culture, I want to get us to the place where our core values are not just on paper."

She said she has prioritized engaging with faculty, staff and students to better understand their needs and wants for the campus.

"To see what's spoken in action is definitely something I aspire to be like," said Stacey Strickland, adjunct instructor of dance, who also works in Frost's office.

Students who have worked with Frost appreciate her approach.

"Every time I go (in), she has this lovely energy, and she gives me this motivation to just keep going even when I feel like I'm not doing my best," said Isaac Vizcarra, junior digital media major. "Her reinforcing inclusivity definitely gave me hope for the future of La Verne as a whole," said Elijah Akumbom, sophomore computer science major.

"Serving here has been incredible, and you all matter to me, this place matters to me," Frost said.

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On the Cover

Sophomore computer science major Logan Soberanis performs with intensity and artistry at the Valentine's Day Cabaret concert Feb. 13 in Morgan Auditorium. Soberanis's performance showcased his vocal strength in a standout moment of the night. / photo by Ronald Banks

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Smith shares truth about homeless

770,000 Americans unhoused



Antonio Ceniceros

Ryan J. Smith, president and CEO of St. Joseph Center in Los Angeles, said he was excited to share his work with the La Verne Community as this year's Frederick Douglass Human Rights lecturer on Wednesday in Morgan Auditorium. He discussed the impact of his organization, providing opportunities to individuals facing financial hardships throughout the Los Angeles County community. Smith shared photos of people that were postively impacted by St. Joseph's Center, and their journies.

Olivia Russo
Editor-in-Chief

Ryan J. Smith, president and CEO of St. Joseph Center, spoke about his home life, career and the humanitarian crisis of homelessness in the United States.

Smith was the featured speaker for the annual Frederick Douglass Human Rights Lecture, Wednesday in the Morgan Auditorium.

About 40 community members attended the talk Wednesday in Morgan Auditorium.

"Homelessness is a policy decision," Smith said. "It's where we lack investment, It's where we do not actually ensure that everyone can have a roof over their head. It's where a lot of our social safety net has not caught up with the reality of what's happening."

St. Joseph Center is located in Los Angeles and they have been helping nearly 15,000 individuals every year for the past 50 years.

"For nearly 50 years, St. Joseph Center has been leading forces supporting working poor venues in unhoused individuals across Los Angeles County," Matthew Coons, University of La Verne alumna, said during the introduction. "As one of the county's largest social service providers, the organization delivers housing services, outreaching engagement, food assistance, mental health support and workforce development to nearly 15,000 people each year in L.A.."

Smith grew up in Culver City, but when he was just about to graduate high school, his mom and him were evicted from their home.

"My mother handed me a trash bag and said 'The home that we built for 10 years, we would have to evacuate in 10 hours," Smith said.

Before leaving, Smith's mother asked a neighbor if they could crash on their couch until Smith was able to finish high school and that neighbor agreed. He was accepted into UCLA thanks to his faculty and his mother's sacrifice.

"It was my neighbor," Smith said. "It was my counselor. It was my assistant principal, who decided that they would ensure that I'd be successful; and I want to say that this is the type of work that is needed in order to ensure that we end and address homelessness in this generation."

After UCLA, Smith went to Mexico to teach and work in orphanages. Once obtaining his Ph.D, also at UCLA, Smith went to work with the St. Joseph Center.

"I will say that we think of ourselves as a beloved community of people," Smith said. "Martin Luther King talks about a beloved community. One that moves the needle and ensures that we all are taking care of each other, but also that we pass policies and practices that address poverty and move the needle on the issues of hunger."

During the lecture, Smith shared a multitude of facts and figures about homelessness across the United States but also in California.

There are over 770,000 people in the United States experiencing homelessness, and 50% of them are located in California. Every year there is an average 9% increase of homelessness across the country.

"There is something about the way in which we talk about homelessness that is, today, dehumanizing," Smith said. "We 'other' our folks. We don't think of these folks as our neighbors. We don't learn their names. We talk about encampments like those people are not human."

> 'There is something about the way in which we talk about homelessness that is, today, dehumanizing.'
> *—Ryan J. Smith, president and CEO of St. Joseph Center*

Smith concluded the lecture by sharing his thoughts on community and coming together to solve the issue of homelessness.

"When I think about our communities…about our immigrant families who are under attack in this country…," Smith said. "When I think about how many of our social services are being cut to the bone…I remind them of the story of the sisters who pulled together resources… And imagine when we pull our resources together…imagine when we decided that homelessness should not exist in a country like this."

Karen Martell, La Verne resident, surprised Smith at the lecture during the question and answer session. She shared that Smith helped her out when she was struggling in her career path.

"I met Ryan when I was at a crossroads in my career, and I had been in the educational nonprofit sector for 10 plus years and I was just exhausted of this system that it just seemed never ending," Martell said. "[Smith's] energy, his passion, and his willingness to keep fighting the good fight, he used to say this a lot."

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Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzeo

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Eatery has plant-based comfort food

Pomona restaurant gives back

Lila Gongora
Staff Writer



Jasmine Lyn

Gorganson's most popular dish is the cali burger with animal-less style fries and paired with a light appetizer with fresh salsa and guacamole. The restaurant is at 224 E. Second Street in downtown Pomona.

Gorganson's, a vegan restaurant in downtown Pomona, set out a few years ago to reimagine comfort food with plant-based versions of burgers, hot wings, tacos and more.

The restaurant opened during the summer of 2023 and since then its owner Mark Nava has encouraged customers to make small changes in their lives to support something bigger than themselves.

"Our daily choices impact the world at large," Nava said. "I always tell people that while you are at Gorganson's you are vegan now. I don't believe that there is a perfect vegan out there, but it's not about being perfect; just about giving it a shot."

He serves a variety of plant-based burgers, cauliflower wings, fish tacos, salads, sandwiches and soups as well as an assortment of cookies and other desserts.

The prices are reasonable, with a variety of under $10 meals.

"We definitely care about quality and taste," said Ayleth Carr, one of Gorganson's employees. "It gives our customers something to look forward to."

The fish tacos, which I got to try on a recent visit, consisted of two corn tortillas filled with soy protein fish pieces topped with shredded cabbage, pico de gallo and tartar sauce. The breading on the fish was crisp, the vegetables were fresh and the sauces added a mild kick to the meal.

The elote-inspired corn-on-the-cob was a perfect dairy-free treat for corn and cheese lovers; the difference between vegan and dairy cheese was almost unnoticeable.

The s'mores cookies will fulfill a sweet tooth with marshmallows on top of a chocolate chip cookie and a graham cracker baked onto the bottom.

"All the food is amazing, even the dessert options," Harper Tarros, a La Verne resident who lunched there recently, said. "The cookies are always chewy and a great plant-based option for a sweet treat."

Nava explained that these dishes are special to him, as he aims to recreate dishes that remind customers of their childhood. His son inspires him, and even served as the inspiration for the restaurant's name.

"A way to motivate myself into veganism was to greet him by saying, 'My Gorgeous Vegan Son,' which turned into 'Gorganson' that we still call him today," Nava said.

Nava raises his 8-year-old son in Pomona, the same city he grew up in and finds it an honor to serve his community.

A long-time customer of Gorganson's, Ashley Romero, described the dishes at Gorganson's as extremely flavorful, especially the Philly Cheesesteak. She has also attended a comedy night at the restaurant.

"It is more than just a restaurant as they build community and try to create a safe space," Romero said.

The restaurant hosts comedy, magic, and live music nights. They have also partnered up with churches and non-profits like Gente Organizada, Lopez Farm, Pomona Pride and Western University.

These collaborations allow Gorganson's to provide aid at events such as feeding the unhoused and giving free supplies while providing safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community.

The restaurant itself has sleek white walls and wooden tiles with pieces painted by local artists that hang from the walls.

Two corkboards also hang from one wall, displaying flyers for events at the restaurant or in the city of Pomona.

Nava attributes his business success in part to his upbringing and Mexican culture.

"'No te rindas' means don't give up," Nava said. "'No te rindas' doesn't just mean don't give up, but it stands as a way of meaning 'you got this, keep going, and we're here for you'."

The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday and Sunday; and from 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday.

It's located at 224 E. Second Street in Pomona.

Follow the restaurant on Instagram **@gorgansons**.

Bring this edition of the Campus Times to Gorganson's for half off the Cali Burger.

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

Lunar New Year event brings ULV good fortune

Donya Rouzbehi
Sports Editor

The Office of International Services and Study Abroad hosted its annual Lunar New Year event at noon Tuesday in the Ludwick Sky Bridge.

The event, attended by about 20 students, offered food from Panda Express and fun activities to mark the day.

Rigzin Norbu-Win, international student advisor, dove into what this annual event is all about and what it means for students.

"We're here showing the celebration to the campus, welcoming everybody," Norbu-Win said. "We have fortune cards and activities for everyone."

The organizers expressed the importance of this event, among others, and how it unites international students from different backgrounds.

This year, the Year of the Horse, foretells rapid change, intense energy and new beginnings.

The year of the horse only happens once every 60 years.

The main activity included Lunar New Year red envelopes, or hóngbāo, an ancient Chinese tradition.

The envelopes are gifts of money in red packets exchanged between families, typically given by adults to children and younger relatives.

These traditional envelopes symbolize good luck, prosperity and happiness.

Garrett Gonzales, junior criminology major, has helped organize this event alongside other student workers.

Gonzales appreciates the importance of the envelope tradition and made sure to include this activity in the event.

"Guests can participate in making red envelopes, and they can use them for themselves for later or to send to their families," Gonzales said.

The envelopes' red color symbolizes luck, prosperity and blessings while the money represents wealth and abundance. These envelopes are commonly exchanged during the Lunar New Year's Eve dinner.

Jim Brooks, International Student Advisor, helps support international students and interculturation of the university. Brooks discussed their past Lunar New Year events throughout the years.

"Participation was always high and I think the expectation is that people are looking for a brighter, newer year," Brooks said. He continues to discuss the relevance of this event specifically to the university.

"This event is relevant to our school and society as a whole, they look for a brighter future." Brooks said.

The event brought students together, looking forward to a prosperous year ahead.

The Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, generally welcomes the spring

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Arts, etc...

Happenings

Junk Hunt

The Fairplex in Pomona is hosting The Great Junk Hunt on Friday and Saturday.

Vendors will sell antiques, handmade and upcycled items.

Music, food and drinks will also be available during the event.

For more information and tickets, visit **thegreatjunkhunt.com/markets/pomona-california-vintage-market.**

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, guests can see the exhibit "She Opens the Door: Women Artists and Writers Shape Language and Space."

For more information, visit **https://clmoa.org/events/#upcoming**

'AIR 2026'

The American Museum of Ceramic Art's current exhibit is "AIR 2026: Compulsion."

It features the eclectic work of Bianca MacPherson, Kristy Moreno, Maxwell Henderson and Yoon Hwang.

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

The exhibition will be on view until May 31.

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

Sasse Museum

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

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

The exhibition will run until Feb. 27. The museum is located at 300-A S. Thomas Street in Pomona.

For more information, visit **sasseartmuseum.org/exhibits2026-when_vision_refuses_to_explain.htm.**

—Cassidy Diaz

AMOCA showcases

Bootleg type art

by Anisa Salazar

photography by Amore Mason



Various pieces of artwork of "The Store of Sturtevant's The Store of Claes Oldenburg" art exhibit at the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona features consumer goods made of clay and soft textiles. Artist Reniel Del Rosario's work challenges the idea of whether imitation can have some kind of originality to it.

The Store of Sturtevant's The Store of Claes Oldenburg" exhibition is currently on at the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona.

Artist Reniel Del Rosario created this installation as a way of investigating mimicry through the appropriation of Elaine Sturevant's 1967 artwork "The Store of Claes Oldenburg" and Claes Oldenburg's 1961 "The Store."

Rosario's inspiration for his artwork has come from Surtevant's mimicry of her colleagues' work.

He was able to connect his fascination with bootlegging throughout his own life into artwork, where he can present his own response and iterations of the references.

"She was the first artist that I found out about who was doing this appropriation artwork," Rosario said. "It rang to be really true. I've lived this my whole life, and she showed me it was viable in an art form."

Located inside the Igal and Daine Silber Vault Gallery, the exhibit displays clay sculptures on the walls and a few on the floor.

It reframes how bootlegging can be seen as a way of adding layers while preserving its value and history, rather than simply copying someone's work.

Rosario's inspiration for his artwork has come from Sturevant's mimicry of her colleagues' work. He was able to connect his fascination with bootlegging throughout his own life into artwork, where he can present his own response and iterations of the references.

When Rosario moved to the States at four years old, he saw many bootleg markets similar to the ones in the Philippines. These market's accessiblility and affordability made him feel a sense of belonging within groups of people who were able to afford luxury items.

"Reflecting on it as I started making artwork, [bootlegging] was something that I thought was really interesting, this idea of the commodity that can be built off something that already exists," Rosario said. "That's something I feel has been the most impactful, with my upbringing and the way I make art."

Visitor Casey Villacorte aligned with Rosario's meaning of bootleg and was able to find a new perspective.

"I feel like bootlegging is usually tied with a negative connotation that it is always bad or less than the original, but this work just goes to show that we can acknowledge a copy of work, while still pointing out its differences and highlighting the history of it all," Villacorte said.

Like a real store, the exhibit has an inventory list of the artwork and prices to match each piece. Displayed are a variety of consumer goods, such as oranges, a plant, a blouse, and cigarettes.

Rosario's rendition of the art that came before him reflects the changes the originals have gone through, physically and perceptually.

"These works are from so long ago, and they're sort of lost in time," Rosario said. "The Oldenburg show … has been split apart, and when shown in exhibitions is a shell of its former self; it's not as crazy, the pieces aren't all there. It sort of looks like a bootleg in itself. There's something interesting about bootlegging the things that aren't there anymore."

While other galleries didn't fully understand Rosario's vision and the perspective he was bringing to appropriation art, founder and CEO of Praise Shadows Art Gallery Yng-Ru Chen supported Rosario and gave him the opportunity to bring the first rendition of this exhibit to life in Boston in 2023.

"When Reniel explained his fascination with Sturtevant's copying of Oldenburg's work from 'The Store' and his rationale behind it, I just thought that it was compelling and made a really good case for why the certain aspect of contemporary art that we call appropriation, made sense for this to be an entire show," Chen said.

While Rosario is clear that his work is a copy of a copy of a copy, he has been able to separate his art from the originals. Instead of using plaster as his primary

Continued on page 7

The Haven slams on Valentine's Day

Frogger Joe two-steps on stage

Marina Bravo
Arts Editor



Vicente Rodriguez

Vocalist Roy Guzman, guitarist Nathan Caballero, vocalist Noel Diazdeleon, bassist Azul Del Pino and drummer Prince Beloved of My Heart Is Yours create the energy for the crowd to form a pit at the Haven in Pomona on Feb 14. They performed lots of original songs, plus a cover of "Anadacoda" by Nicki Minaj. They kept the crowd moshing through the rest of their set.

Love can be soft and gentle, a warm hug, but love can also be cathartic, exciting and loud.

The Valentine's Day hardcore show on Feb. 14 at the Haven in downtown Pomona, joined attendees together for a loud mosh-worthy show.

A show that not only spread a message of protest and to join together in the fight, but a message of love and an unspoken understanding of community through music.

Frogger Joe presented local SoCal bands including: Serenity, My Heart is Yours, Pura Vida HC, Frogger, Breed Bone, Till the End and headliner Symptoms of Suicide.

With the doors opening at 6:30 p.m., the event had around 70 people in the audience. Each band performed a set between six to eight songs.

The energy only became more contagious after each musical act.

The first band was a local girls pop-rock/alternative group. Their music was vibrant and had the crowd dancing.

They performed an unreleased original song titled "Annoying Orange."

Lead singer/guitarist and senior at Claremont High School, Sofia Delgado with her vibrant pink hair, shouted her message of protest to the crowd.

"F– that 'Annoying Orange' and f– ICE," Delgado said.

Their performance of this song had elements inspired by the current government and political climate.

Alongside this, they helped a crowd member with their Valentine's proposal to elevate the mood and keep the excitement rolling.

Serenity concluded their set with a cover of "Deceptacon" by punk band Le Tigre. Making a mark for the night.

The band that followed Serenity's performance was a two piece hardcore band called Breed Bone.

Hardcore band My Heart is Yours rocked the stage.The five piece band gave a riveting performance including their cover of "Anaconda" by Nicki Minaj.

Their passion and emotion exuded off of the two vocalists.

The two performed with their hauntingly beautiful fry vocals.

Their music also being a reflection of the current times in the nation.

"F– Trump, F– ICE, Free Palestine," vocalist Roy Guzman said.

After their performance of protest they invited audience members to take care of themselves and each other. To join together.

"You belong here, don't let anyone tell you different" second vocalist Noel Diazdeleon said.

Their moving set concluded with audience members joining them on stage and jumping off back to mosh and stage-dive into the crowd.

It created a unifying environment along with their powerful message.

Pura Vida HC, a hardcore band from El Monte took the stage. Lead vocalist and guitarist, Ernesto Montes, guitarist van , bass player Sam Schwadron and drummer Jacob Ayala were all wearing ties and looking uniform.

However, they went against the grain with their performance.

Their performance of "Al Pastor" was powerful and energetic. Behind gruesome vocals and guitar, the meaning of the song echoing through the venue.

Al pastor is a traditional and very popular Mexican dish.

It is marinated pork cooked vertically.

The song calls out police officers and it is a protest against the horrors of police brutality.

Montes had the crowd headbanging to this song of protest.

"I'm hunting al pastor till we win this fight."

Pura Vida HC urged the community to stick together and to stick up for each other.

"They can't stop us if we all come together," Montes said.

Montes then held his guitar that had the message, "F– ICE."

The Haven became a place of expression and a place where people found community through protest.

It was also a place of love and passion for the scene.

Although there is a lot of division surrounding areas, love and community always finds its way.

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Pomona Art Walk celebrates Year of the Horse

Natalia Rodriguez
Staff Writer

On Saturday the Downtown Pomona Arts District hosted the Lunar New Year celebration the same day as their monthly art walk.

The Lunar New Year festivities took place from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., with the art walk starting at 5 p.m. and ending at the same time.

Many people visited to usher in the Year of the Horse.

The event featured a series of live performances such as a traditional lions and dragons dance and their Shaolin Kung Fu Show, among many more, which were split between daytime and nighttime performances.

Red lanterns and stringed lights decorated the outdoor stage.

There were also a series of food stalls people could buy from as they enjoyed the festivities and browsed the vendor tables at the art walk.

"I feel like it's a perfect introduction to Pomona," Lola Akingoye, an event-goer, said.

Akingoye, who was in Pomona to see a concert, mentioned it was her first time visiting and was curious to take a look around once she knew there was an event happening.

She particularly liked seeing the vendors at the art walk.

"It was really nice to just see everybody all at once instead of having to, like, hop from shop to shop and just being able to walk through," Akingoye said.

"I really like markets in general, so this was like my sweet spot."

Helen Truong, one of the vendors, stated that she liked the overall ambiance of the Pomona Art Walk.

Truong tabled for the event six times previously and briefly spoke on the number of people who take the time to attend the art walks.

"It's always great seeing new people, and familiar faces," Truong said.

Her table featured an assortment of stickers, acrylic keychains, and acrylic phone charms from various fictional media.

Another highlight of the art walk was the "31 Flavors" event hosted by the Alley Gallery, in which artists painted live on large canvases.

Samantha Lujano, another event-goer, stated she spent around three hours working on her piece as she listened to the music and clamor of the festivities around her.

She mentioned that while this was only the second time she had visited during the Lunar New Year celebration, she has been going to the art walks since 2022.

Lujano tries to go to the celebration two or three times a year.

"I like coming back to this area because I feel there's a freedom to truly express the way you feel, especially in terms of art," Lujano said.

In a similar vein, the Galeria Yasmin hosted its inaugural art exhibit titled "Amor del Pueblo."

Some of the artists featured included Margaret Garcia, Rick Ortega, Chris Escobar, Juan Thorp, Tina Arroyos, and many more.

The exhibit showcased many pieces of Chicano art.

One of the people promoting the exhibit, Rafael Galvan, explained that it was his first time helping out at the art walk in Pomona.

He handed out flyers as people walked around the event.

"Seeing and talking to a bunch of different artists and vendors, it's been really nice," Galvan said.

He mentioned he enjoyed his time at the event and would be open to helping out in the future as well.

The Pomona Art Walk happens every second Saturday of the month.

For more information, visit **downtownpomona.org/artwalk**.

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Leopards strike out in first game

Donya Rouzbehi
Sports Editor



Aaliyah Alamillo

La Verne freshman third baseman Levi Altimarano tags out Whitworth sophomore shortstop Yash Gupta Feb. 13 at Ben Hines Field.

Gupta got caught in a rundown between Altimarano and La Verne senior shortstop Ryan Vosika. The Pirates beat the Leopards, 5-1.

The Leopards lost 5-1 to the Whitworth Pirates in their first game of the season Feb. 13 at Ben Hines Field.

"There wasn't a lot to like on the offensive side, other than I felt like our kids kept fighting," Winterburn said. "But I liked the way our pitchers competed."

Junior pitcher Justin Ries got the start for the Leopards, tossing five innings, allowing two runs on four hits to keep his team within striking distance.

Senior shortstop Ryan Vosika tailed two hits and drew a walk.

Senior Aaron Whobrey made his debut at first base with quick defensive plays and a hit at the plate.

Senior catcher Nathan Perry also added a hit for the Leopards.

To stay motivated for the spring season, the team reminds themselves about the "nine on one" motto that pushes them.

"So 'nine on one' is nine guys playing as one team against another team," Aiden Salcedo, senior infielder, said. "As a pitcher, 'nine on one' means all of us are behind him."

Salcedo drove in the Leopards' only run of the game with a dribbler to Whitworth sophomore shortstop Yash Gupta, allowing Whobrey to score.

The Pirates hit three solo home runs and dominated the game early on.

The Leopards fought to stay on base, drawing five walks as a team.

The Leopards' offense faltered throughout the game. They struggled to bring in runs and even the score, leaving nine runners on base.

Andrew Wente, sophomore pitcher, thought the team felt timid due to first-game jitters.

"Our offense really wasn't clicking today," Wente said.

"I think we could have batted a little bit better, but I think we're going to be looking good this year, we just have to get more experience."

Wente relieved sophomore pitcher Corbin Duffield, who gave up one run in three innings of work.

"I think the energy was calm today," Duffield said. "Some highlights were that a lot of the new guys got opportunities. Despite them doing good or not, it's good to get new guys in."

The Leopards will play their next game at 2 p.m. Friday at Ben Hines Field against Linfield.

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New Year...

Continued from page 4

season. Those who celebrate honor ancestors, have family reunions, dinner parties, lantern festivals, traditional dragon dances and more.

China and several other countries in Asia celebrate the Lunar New Year. At dinner, many traditional dishes are served. Some include fish, dumplings, spring rolls, noodles and citrus fruits.

Rach'el Scott, junior psychology major, discussed what drew her to this event and what stood out to her.

"I would definitely come again," Scott said. "I love the music, the vibes and I think the decorations are so cute. I love that we're celebrating this culture."

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Stephanie Amaya

Elena Perez, senior psychology major; Leah Kuo, freshman elementary education major; Rach'el Scott, sophomore psychology major; Zwe Sat, data analytics graduate student; and Minon Endo, child life master's student, ring in the Lunar New Year with fortune cards and a Panda Express lunch Tuesday at the Ludwick Center. The activities included traditional red envelope making. The event was sponsored by the Office of International Services and Study Abroad.

AMOCA...

Continued from page 5

medium, like Sturtevant and Oldenburg, Rosario used clay in his iteration.

Because much of the source material has been lost in time, he referenced Sturtevant and Oldenburg to the best of his ability, but some was still left to his interpretation.

"It was left up to his interpretation in a lot of areas, which I think is kind of interesting," museum store and guest services manager Melissa Scrivener said. "He puts himself in their shoes, thinking about what it could have possibly looked like."

The exhibit will be open to visit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until May 17 at The American Museum of Ceramic Art.

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Leopards fall short against Caltech

Daniel Franklin
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team came up close against Caltech, 88-85, on Wednesday at Frantz Athletic Court.

In the first half the Leopards and Beavers had a back-and-forth battle, with neither team having more than a six point lead.

The Leopards tied it early on, 8-8 with many three pointers from junior guard Jackson Gray and senior guard Cody Aquino. Gray scored 15 points, a rebound, and an assist for the night.

"We let certain guys get too comfortable and I think that's what hurt us," sophomore guard Higgy Katoa said. "I think that our overall defensive effort needed to be better as well."

The Leopards did successfully control the free throw line, making over 50% of their free throws. Caltech didn't roll over, however, keeping the game close in the middle of the first half.

With five minutes left in the first half, the Beavers took a three-point lead over the Leopards. With 4:22 left in the first half, Gray sank a two-pointer for the Leopards to cut the lead to 1.

On the next possession La Verne junior forward Julian Daaboul came down for a steal, and a pass to Aquino, who would be fouled by the Beavers. He secured the two free throws, giving the Leopards a 39-38 lead with 3:56 remaining.

"As a team we can improve by being aware of the challenges we continue to face in regards to a full 40 minutes of execution, and trying to lock down defensively for two complete halves," Aquino said.

The Beavers instantly took back the lead after scoring two points the next possession, but the Leopards took it right back in their next possession.

The Beavers tied it back up with 2:27 remaining as the score was 41-41. The Leopards then went on a run, scoring four points in the next three possessions.

Caltech responded with multiple points and defensive stops on their own, tying the game up 45-45 with 12 seconds remaining in the first half. Gray, with one second remaining, drained a three to give the Leopards the lead.

Gray also made the and-one attempt, giving the Leopards a four-point lead, 49-45, at the end of the first half.

The second half was a consistent battle. La Verne sophomore guard Percy Whittaker scored a season high of 17 points and shot 70% from the field. Whittaker also tied his season high in rebounds and steals.

In the second half, Whittaker turned up the gas, starting with a driving layup, pushing the Leopards into taking the lead, 70-67. Whittaker grabbed six rebounds, two steals and made several free throws.

The Leopards maintained the lead as they consistently had good offensive possessions and great defensive stops. The Leopards got up to a seven point lead against the Beavers, as it was a dominant second half.

However, the Beavers did not give up, coming back with a few points of their own. Caltech dragged the Leopards for a long stretch, finally breaking the lead with under a minute left, 86-85.

The Leopards did not capitalize for the next two possessions down the stretch of the final 30 seconds. The Beavers called a timeout, and came out to sink two free throws to put the lead to 87-85.

With a final hope of overtime the Leopards would come down with a few seconds left in the final possession but would miss the final three attempts.

Gray and Aquino each finished with 15 points. Katoa finished with 14 points, three steals and four assists. James Christian finished with 10 points of his own.

La Verne also faced Chapman on Saturday and fell short, 79-75.

Next up, La Verne will close the season against Pomona-Pitzer at 2 p.m. Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court.

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Joseph Nocero

Julian Daaboul, La Verne junior forward, passes the ball around Caltech defenders Ryan Rodriguez, freshman guard/wing, and Robert Jackson, junior wing, Wednesday at Frantz Athletic Court. The Leopards came up short against the Beavers, 88-85.



Jo

Isaiah Bennett, La Verne freshman guard, drives to the basket against Finnegan Fancher, Caltech freshman wing/center, Wednesday at Frantz Athletic Court. The Leopards lost, 88-85, to fall to 3-20 on the season.

Leopard Scoreboard

At the Buzzer

Softball, Feb. 14
La Verne – 9
Stevens – 0

Softball, Feb. 14
La Verne – 6
Stevens – 5

Women's Water Polo, Feb. 15
Biola – 22
La Verne – 5

Women's Water Polo, Feb. 15
La Verne – 10
Long Island – 24

Women's Basketball, Feb. 18
La Verne – 41
Caltech – 47

Schedule

Friday
Baseball vs. Linfield, 2 p.m.
Softball vs. George Fox, 2 p.m.
Softball vs. George Fox, 4 p.m.

Saturday
Baseball vs. Linfield, 11 a.m.
Women's water polo vs. Cal Lutheran, 11 a.m.
Men's basketball vs. Pomona-Pitzer, 2 p.m.
Baseball vs. Linfield, 2 p.m.
Women's basketball vs. Pomona-Pitzer, 4 p.m.

Sunday
Baseball vs. Linfield, 11 a.m.

Wednesday
Women's water polo @ Occidental, 7 p.m.
Men's basketball SCIAC Tournament play-in, TBD

Women's Basketball Standings

	SCIAC	Overall
Cal Lutheran	12-3	20-4
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps	12-4	18-7
Redlands	10-5	17-6
Pomona-Pitzer	10-5	15-9
Chapman	8-7	14-9
Occidental	7-8	12-12
Whittier	6-9	11-12
La Verne	**2-13**	**6-18**
Caltech	1-14	3-18