Campus Times

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Panel discusses research projects

Donya Rouzbehi
Sports Editor



Antonio Ceniceros

Professor of Management Louise Kelly answers a student's question about the role the University plays in encouraging research Tuesday in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room. Kelly took part in a panel discussion along with Professor of Management Si Hyun Kim, Professor of Management Giacomo Laffranchini, Professor of Management Issam Ghazzawi, and Professor of Biology Jerome Garcia. They discussed how to approach real world problems through research and how finding success demands patience and vulnerability.

The La Verne Academy lecture series on Tuesday featured a panel of faculty from different disciplines, who shared their research approaches and for an audience of 15 in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room.

Participants included Si Hyun Kim, professor of management and leadership; Giacomo Laffranchini, professor of management; Issam Ghazzawi, professor of management; and Jerome Garcia, professor of biology. Louise Kelly, professor of management, moderated the panel.

Ghazzawi, who has worked in business for various-sized companies in the U.S. and Canada, said he witnessed the challenges and complications when it comes to an organization's development, success and growth. His research has focused mainly on organizational life cycles, when an organization fails and how it can be rejuvenated.

"You don't have to be good to start," Ghazzawi said. "But you do need to start to be good."

Ghazzawi's research focuses on organizational development and strategic leadership that could make or break an organization.

Laffranchini discussed how his research was fueled by his intellectual curiosity. He grew up in an entrepreneurial environment in Italy, where he was exposed to many family businesses and local companies.

A main question that Laffranchini answered in his research was how family firms behave during turnaround times and organizational decline.

"Most family businesses may appear to defy economic rationality, but that is because they go by a different rationality that is not purely economical in nature," Laffranchini said.

Kim's research centers on human resources management. She has focused on talking points such as why people work, their motivations, satisfaction and financial incentives.

"My big question is why do people work?" Kim said.

Garcia was trained as a physiologist and biochemist. He looks at how chemical properties affect the human body.

His research centers on mechanisms that allow biologists to develop new therapies to fight different diseases.

"I've been very fortunate in that my particular expertise has allowed me to delve into cancer, obesity and aging," Garcia said. "And so trying to minimize or cure those particular areas has really been my driving force."

"I never wanted my entire career to be about research," Garcia added. "I want it to be about mentorship and helping the next generation," Garcia said. "I love our first-generation students, they're hungry and willing to put in the work. That's a part of the thrill in the research."

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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**.

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Ramadan dinner brings community

Kalayah Frazier
Staff Writer

The Common Ground interfaith club hosted a Ramadan iftar dinner Wednesday in the Campus Center Ballroom.

Roughly 45 people of various cultures and religions attended.

The dinner also allowed for guests to learn the history of the holiday.

Ramadan, which is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar, is marked by a month of fasting, reflection and communal prayer.

Iftar is the daily break-fast meal at sundown each day of Ramadan.

The ninth month is when the Quran is believed to have been revealed to the prophet Muhammad.

The iftar event Wednesday featured a variety of foods including curry, tikka masala, butter chicken and flatbread.

After dinner Adonis Borer, senior psychology major and president of the Common Ground club, gave a presentation about the history of Ramadan and its importance to the Muslim faith.

Borer said this event is an important one for the club.

"We really focus on interfaith work, doing different events for different faiths, different traditions," Borer said. "We have a lot of Muslim students on campus (and) a lot of students that are interested in participating in fasting. So we really wanted to have one dinner."

Ramadan also emphasizes supporting those who are less fortunate.

Senior biology major and interfaith club member Eraci Hamed, said she enjoyed this event and was pleased for such an event on campus honoring

Continued on page 6

On the Cover

La Verne junior guard Kason White is defended by Pomona-Pitzer's freshman guard Bryson Baker and sophomore forward Charlie Hutchison on Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court. The Leopards ended up winning the intense game against the Sagehens, 75-74. / photo by Jesse Juarez

Administrators eliminate Jan Term

Students upset by change

Olivia Russo
Editor-in-Chief

After a 56-year run, January Interterm 2026 marked the last January term for the University of La Verne.

The Board of Trustees approved the academic calendars for the next three years on Feb. 20.

And the 2026-2027 academic year will be the first year to not include January term, which until this year allowed students to take up to five academic credits in the intensive month-long session for no additional charge.

Spring semester 2027 will go from Jan. 11 to May 9.

Discussions leading to this decision had included talk of moving January term to May, but the May term idea was nixed in the final calendar decision.

"There's no revenue coming in, so basically, the University feels that it's a loser," said Rick Hasse, professor of accounting and finance, and a faculty senator. "In some equations, in some aspects from a business standpoint, it is a loser. But we're charging enough tuition that should make up enough revenue to cover them."

The new calendar will still allow students to take some of the classes they would have taken in January during the eight-week summer term.

But they will have to pay additional tuition to attend in summer, whereas January term has been included in spring tuition, so it was free.

"We're short-term strategists, and we're very poor at it," Hasse said.

Students who took advantage of January term would use it to retake a class they were not successful in, complete a minor, lighten their semester load or graduate a semester early.

Student athletes benefited as they could adjust their schedules depending on the demands of their sports season.

Students at the University may take up to 18 units per semester, so four Jan Terms offered them the equivalent of a whole additional semester for no added charge.

None are happy about its cancellation, according to an informal survey conducted by the Campus Times this month, which found that 20 out of 20 students were upset about the change.

"Jan term is unique to our school," Christian Gutierrez, sophomore international business major, said.

"And as a sophomore I only got to use it for two years. I could only get ahead for two years and I didn't get the opportunity to advance in my classes. It's getting stripped away for a paid semester that I personally know I can't afford."

Regular classes are not the only ones affected by the calendar change.

January term has historically offered study-abroad opportunities with trips to Europe, the Galapagos and more.

"Jan term gave faculty an opportunity to do travel courses," said Justin Saldana, associate professor of teacher education and faculty senator.

"Because of the time frame, the opportunities were cheaper for students, for faculty. If we do travel courses during the summer, to any part of the world, we're going to be competing with the tourist industry and everything's going to be more expensive."

Students wishing to take summer classes at La Verne will be able to apply for financial aid via a separate process from the annual FAFSA financial aid application.

Without the assistance of financial aid, this term will cost $725 per unit.

"We don't really have expectations, other than to hope the new summer classes are popular," Provost Ken O'Donnell said in an emailed statement. "Since instructors have different availabilities, the mix of professors will probably change, but we want to offer at least the same range of classes."

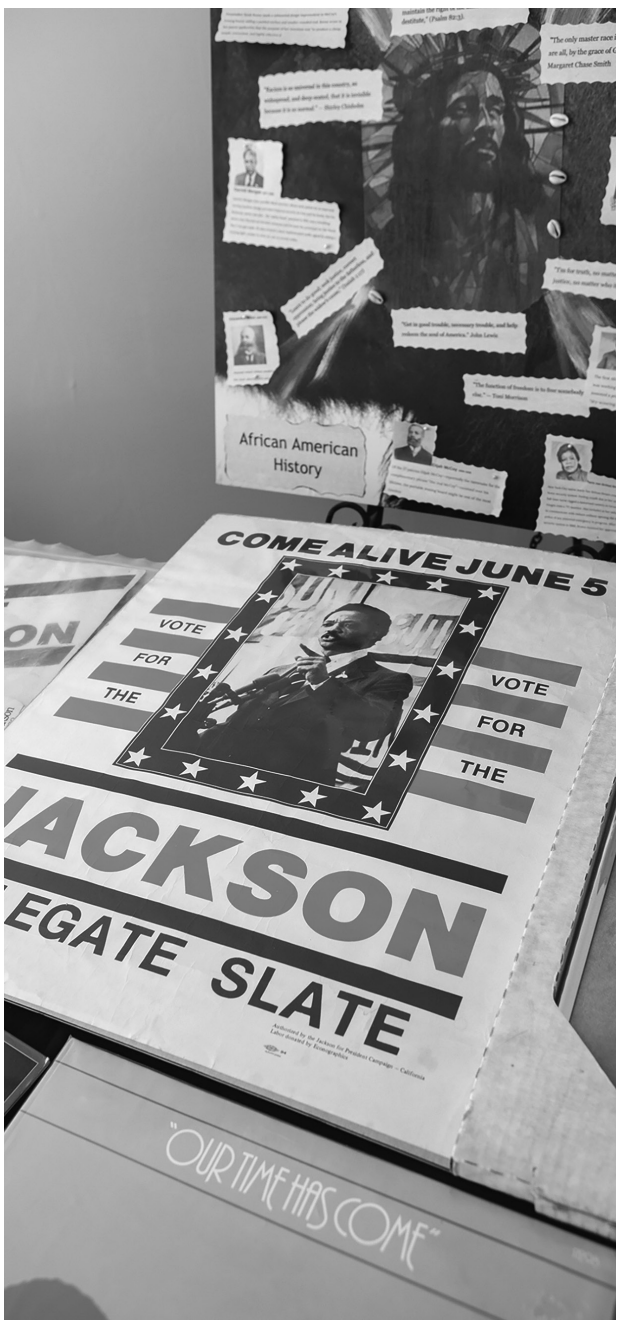
Summer registration begins in mid-April.

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Black History Month Teach-In



Kenneth B. Morris, cofounder and president of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiative, speaks during the first session of the Black History Month teach-in Saturday at Primm A.M.E. Church in Pomona. Morris is Douglass' great-great-great grandson and Booker T. Washington's great-great grandson, and he said both gave him a strong voice as he talked about his family's story and wanting to give a voice to Black men and women who never got the credit they deserved throughout history.



Items celebrating the life of Jesse Jackson sit among the Black History Month mementos at Primm A.M.E Church on Saturday in Pomona. The church hosted a teach-in event for Black History Month.



Rev. Richard Rose addresses the audience at the Black History Month teach-in Saturday at Primm A.M.E. Church in Pomona. Rev. Rose is an executive director of the Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies whose work focuses on issues relating to power and oppression.

photography by Amore Mason

Club advocates for women's rights

Students fight for choice

Marina Bravo
Arts Editor

Leos For Choice is a student-led organization that has been empowering and informing the University community without prejudice.

Led by President Anthony Boothby, senior political science major; Vice President Allyson Villa, senior psychology major; Secretary Patil Tajerian, freshman biology major; and Treasurer Merari Hernandez, senior criminology major.

In 2024, Boothby had seen an alarming statement that was displayed on the rock in front of Founders Hall.

Boothby felt that there was a rise in misinformation being spread about being pro-choice happening on the University campus and decided he needed to do something about it.

"I can't allow myself to just sit and do nothing," Boothby said. "When I see that there is an opposing voice spreading misinformation, I'm never someone to just sit idly."

When Boothby began the Leos For Choice club, many students misinterpreted its purpose.

Many thought it served as a club to debate and disagree with the already existing pro-life club, Leos Protecting Life.

Boothby knew that Leos For Choice was going to be so much more than just an opposite opinion.

He wanted the club to make a difference and serve students. Their club is not here to change opinion, but to change accessibility to resources and provide correct information.

"I'm not going to debate whether or not a woman should have bodily autonomy," Boothby said. "Why would I debate that? You're gonna say no, I'm gonna say yes? That's just ridiculous to me."

The club's advisers, Professor of Educational Studies John Bartelt and Adjunct Professor of Education Linda Bartelt, shared why they chose to support the start of Leos for Choice was because of the egregious amount of misinformation being spread not only on campus but across the nation.

"There's so much misinformation in the world being propagated everywhere," John Bartelt said. "The birth defect of this country originally was misogyny."

He expressed his frustration with the bigger picture, which is the fact that women's rights and bodies are constantly being voted on in this country – never a man's.

As the United States is currently living in a post Roe v. Wade era, women need a place on campus where they can feel safe to make their own decisions.

"We are kind of living in an era where for women to speak up about their own rights is squashed," Linda Bartelt said. "It is important to have a place for women to say, No, you're not being gaslit. You do have a right to make decisions about your own body without anyone making you feel like you're doing something wrong because you're advocating for yourself."

> 'You do have a right to make decisions about your own body without anyone making you feel like you're doing something wrong.'
> *– Linda Bartelt Adjunct Professor of Education*

Villa shared the reason why she wanted to become involved with the club was because of the feeling of anger she felt when seeing students on campus debating what she could do with her body.

Villa expressed the importance of exercising one's right to free speech and also holding the University to its Diversity and Inclusivity core value.

"It's important to have an unbiased campus," Villa said. "Although I think it is something the university fails to do at times, I also think that they're trying."

Both Villa and Boothby pride themselves in what kind of work the club is doing to improve the accessibility for students on campus.

Although they don't really have official club meeting times, their club is no stranger to showing up and showing out for the community.

One of the many positive impacts coming from this club is their weekly and free condom distributions.

This occurs from noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday in the lobby of Citrus Residence Hall and the Vista Residence Hall.

When asked about the main message of the club, it was to be a place of empowerment and education.

To have access to a space like this on campus regardless of gender identity or political stand. It is to be a place open for everyone.

"I think students are powerful and I think it's a good place for them to exercise their voices," Linda Bartelt said.

"You have the right to choose everything for yourself and your body," Villa said. "You don't have to let other people dictate that for you. Having bodily autonomy is a right in this country, no matter what anybody tries to tell you, especially our government."

Boothby and Villa mentioned their biggest task currently is a question of accessibility.

There has been a lack of resources in student restrooms. They are currently advocating for more women's hygiene and menstrual products in the gender neutral bathrooms and women's bathrooms inside of the Vista Residence Hall.

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

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Fresh finds in Claremont



Mia Byington

Fresh fruit awaits visitors to the JM Produce stand Sunday in the Claremont Village during the Claremont Farmers Market. The weekly event is a California Certified Farmers' Market, where merchants are verified to have grown their produce themselves.

Herbalist shares natural remedies



Ronald Banks

Herbalist William Broen talks about edible and medicinal native plants during a guided walk Saturday at the California Botanic Garden in Claremont. He gave an interactive lesson where he identified different plants, explained their uses for things like teas, food and remedies and discussed their role in the environment.

Arts, etc...

Happenings

'Spirit of Ireland'

The University of La Verne music department and the Tamora School of Irish Dance will present the "Spirit of Ireland" concert at 3 p.m. March 1 in Morgan Auditorium.

Tickets are $20 and students are free.

For more information, email **music@laverne.edu.**

'Proof'

The University of La Verne theater department presents "Proof" by David Auburn and directed by Sean Dillon in Dailey Theater at 7:30 p.m. on March 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 2 p.m. on March 22.

The show is about a young woman proving her worth in the field of mathematics while battling personal hardships.

Tickets are $7.18 and ULV students are free.

For more information visit **eventbrite.com/e/proof-tickets-1983643113952.**

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.

Guests can see the exhibit "She Opens the Door: Women Artists and Writers Shape Language and Space." This exhibit spotlights women creative writers along.

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

'Interference Patterns'

The Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College is holding a reception for John Sparagana's exhibit "Interference Patterns" from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The event is free, registration is required. The exhibit will run until June 28.

For more information, visit **pomona.edu/museum/events/2026/02/john-sparagana-interference-patterns-opening-event-ken-vandermark**.

—Cassidy Diaz

Exhibit captures

Beauty in motion

by Cassidy Diaz

photography by Antonio Ceniceros



Photographer Edward Lance Montgomery presents his "Kinetic Ambiguity" exhibition Feb. 19 located in the Irene Carlson Gallery of Photography. The exhibition located in Miller Hall runs through April 17.

The opening reception for the "Kinetic Ambiguity" photography exhibit was Feb. 19 in the Irene Carlson Gallery of Photography in Miller Hall.

The exhibit features the work of artist Edward Lance Montgomery.

His photos consist of Joshua trees, windmills, power lines and mountain horizons, with many photos taken from a moving car, which creates a blurring of colors and images.

"The idea of taking pictures and having them out of focus and blurry was the inspiration for this type of photography," Montgomery said.

Montgomery's photography journey started as a hobby and dates back to 2003, during his deployment in Iraq during the second Gulf War, taking pictures with his point-and-shoot camera.

"I was in the army and it was my last tour, so it wasn't like I was coming back anytime so I was taking pictures," Montgomery said.

He retired from the Army in 2005, went back to school and graduated from Cal State San Bernardino in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in studio art and a business minor.

He spent some more time working for the government after college. Now he lives in Victorville and focuses on photography full time.

"I went back to work for the federal government and did office work and I just kept doing photography for the fun of it," Montgomery said.

"For a while I worked at an Air Force base and it was about an hour and 15 minutes from my front door in Victorville, so there were three or four different ways you could go."

This started his interpretation of landscape photography by shooting photographs from his car while driving.

"On the way there, and on the way home, I would take blurry pictures and it just kind of rekindled photography," Montgomery said.

> 'It felt like you were inside the image and in the passenger seat view of those photos.'
> *—Rylee Fournier, senior photography major*

"I'm in the car driving and my camera's in the seat, because I only do it when I'm alone and kind of paying attention and not paying attention all at the same time while shooting."

His first photo that is presented in the gallery dates back to 2019. Which is a photograph of a Joshua tree that highlights the vivid colors of the sky and the desert.

"It's kind of special knowing that there's only a couple places where the tree lives, I feel a friendship with them," Montgomery said.

"I feel like they're my friends since spending time on the road for so long."

The recent photograph was taken in September 2025, with power lines and a Joshua tree in frame with high saturation colors of orange, blue and green.

"It provides a safe view as you would normally see it as if you were driving in a car through this landscape yourself," Fred Brashear, visiting professor of photography said.

"So it's kind of an interesting way of being present in the moment and looking at these images as if they're still moving past us."

Brashear discovered Montgomery through other local exhibits and took interest in his work. Relatively the motion in the photography gives Brashear a sense of a fleeting moment.

"It felt like you were inside the image and in the passenger seat view of those photos," Rylee Fournier, senior photography major said.

"It gave me this weird visual effect that caused you to look at the image differently because of how blurry those photos were."

Fournier started photography also as a hobby and became a big passion for her.

"I connected with him on that level," Fournier said. "He was very out of the box and out of the ordinary that I've never seen a photographer do something like this before so it was super cool to see."

The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and "Kinetic Ambiguity" runs through April 17.

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

Art walk celebrates zine comeback

Ontario highlights paper arts

Natalia Rodriguez
Staff Writer

The quarterly Ontario Art Walk on Sunday featured a celebration of paper arts.

Starting at 6 p.m. at the Ontario Museum of History and Art, community members browsed the different tables and booths. The theme, paper arts, which was evident through each of the vendors' products.

Many of them displayed zines and other forms of artwork, such as prints.

There also was a free stamp-making activity for guests to create their own stamps out of carved erasers.

One of the vendors, Rain Shiffer, said they were still new to the zine-making process, having only started creating them the year prior.

They were inspired to create their first zine last spring in response to threats to defund public libraries.

They said handing a few of them out boosted their confidence, which allowed them to make more and sell them for the first time at the art walk.

"I think also just because it is centered around zines and that medium," Shiffer said. "I think that this community just feels more my speed, like, to vend at."

Another vendor, Andrew Penczner, also discussed his journey into zine-making.

He mentioned being a comic book creator and having tabled at Comic-Con in the past, but that it was a bit difficult to put out a lot of comic books in a certain amount of time.

"Zines are like comic books, but way more accessible," he said. "They're a little pulpier, they're quicker to make, and they're cheaper to make. The zine format just really called to me and I think the zine culture is just so warm and welcoming and it's very punk-rock, and I just enjoy being a part of it."

Penczner, aside from selling his collections of doodles, also sold stickers.

He also had a large stamp, which event-goers were encouraged to use to create hand-made cards to share with other people.

Aleksandra Androshkina, another vendor, sold a series of fanzines, prints, stickers and offered live portraits.

Much like Shiffer, she said that this was her first time tabling at an art walk and really enjoyed her experience doing so.

"I really liked the Ontario art scene and community and I thought that it was really nice to start out somewhere that's really close to me," Androshkina said. "Everything else is really intimidating, but I really love the people here."

Nadia Rentaria, a senior psychology major at UC Riverside, attended the art walk after hearing about it last minute.

It was her first time attending any sort of event at the museum.

"It's really heartwarming to see a bunch of artists come together," Rentaria said. "So whenever there's opportunities it's always nice to see everyone come together for that."

She liked the quieter atmosphere of the area and stated that despite this, she could still feel the love of art in the air.

The next Ontario Art Walk will be May 16 starting at 6 p.m. at the Museum at 225 Euclid Ave.

For more information visit **ontarioartwalk.org**.

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CAB block party creates community, culture

The Campus Activities Board hosted a Feel The Beat block party Tuesday in the Campus Center Ballroom in honor of Black History Month.

Roughly 30 students attended.

The event featured a live DJ, temporary tattoos, bracelets and a cap giveaway.

There was also mixed berry pie, apple pie and peach cobbler to eat.

"Our goal is that it makes everyone feel welcome and well represented here on campus," said CAB multicultural chair Kevlyn Martinez, a sophomore psychology major.

"Events like these (offer) a moment to get together and hang out with your friends surrounded by good music," Jayla Brown, freshman psychology major, said.

Everyone seemed to appreciate the yummy free food, music and community.

"I enjoyed how people came to the event whether they had a friend or not," Kaitlyn Pamintuan, a junior business major, said. "I think it really highlighted that sense of community the University of La Verne brings."

—Aniyha Williams



Stephanie Amaya

Mariah Alarcon, junior psychology major; Kera Bush, senior psychology major; Olivia Isaacs, freshman business administration major; Mia Fields, freshman biology major; and Giselle Martinez, junior legal studies major, celebrate Black History Month with a hat giveaway, temporary tattoos, R&B and 2000s music, and cobbler and pie Tuesday at the Campus Center Ballroom. The event was sponsored by the Campus Activities Board. Students were able to enjoy the night of music.

Ramadan...

Continued from page 2

her heritage.

"It is special to me since it is like my religion and I fast," Hamed said. "I like … seeing my friends that are not the same (religion) as me get a chance to experience my culture and the food that my culture usually gets to eat."

Some who attended had never experienced such an event.

Biology professor Victor Carmona was excited to experience and activities outside of the classroom with the students.

"I'm really glad that I came to this event tonight because I heard that I would be surrounded by my students and I thought it was a nice idea," Carmona said. "To be able to enjoy this culture that some of my students are a part of was also really important to me."

Sophomore biology major Syra Arian agreed.

"I feel so much more connected to my friends who do celebrate," Arian said. "I now understand more about the Muslim culture and the Ramadan that my friends have personally been going through around me."

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Men's basketball wins final game

Daniel Franklin
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team ended its season on a high note, defeating Pomona-Pitzer in a close game, 75-74, Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court in the Athletics Pavilion.

The Sagehens came out hot at the start of the game, taking a demanding 15-9 lead within the first five minutes of the game.

However the Leopards slowly started to climb their way back into the game.

"I'm really happy we just got to win for our seniors on their senior night," sophomore guard Higgy Katoa said. "We could end the year on a high note."

The Leopards tried to climb back into the game to take the lead but the Sagehens held on.

With six minutes left in the first half, the Sagehens extended the lead to a 14-point differential.

La Verne junior guard Jackson Gray drained a three with 4:44 remaining to start the Leopards offensive run to cut the lead to one.

The Sagehens answered back with a three to bring the lead back to a three.

With less than a minute left in the first half, senior guard Cody Aquino hit a three to tie the game.

However the Sagehens went on a 3-0 run to close out the first half, 41-37.

Aquino dropped a career high 31 points and a career high five three pointers to close out his final game as a Leopard.

"I felt a sense of joy and accomplishment," Aquino said. "Because I know how hard I worked up till that point and was able to do it in front of all people and the rest of the people supporting La Verne."

As the second half began, the Sagehens came out swinging, gaining an eight points lead.

But the Leopards didn't let up and continued to cut the lead down.

With 13:24 remaining, the Leopards got a fast break layup from junior guard James Christian to tie the game, 51-51.

Christian had four steals on the night and finished with 12 points.

Tensions rose as both teams had five ties within the second half.

With 12:03 left the Leopards finally took the lead, 55-53.

"The main thing for us is maintaining the lead along with extending it," junior guard Kason White said. "We also have to understand who their scorers are and put our focus on stopping them."

With 10 minutes left in the half, the Leopards and Sagehens went back and forth consistently with neither team gaining the advantage.

However, with 4:07 remaining the Leopards gained the advantage, taking a seven point lead.

The Sagehens climbed their way back into the game, cutting the lead to 73-70.

With 59 seconds remaining, the Sagehens tied the game at 74-74.

After a Leopards miss, they would gain possession with 25 seconds remaining after a Sagehen turnover.

Gray drew a foul with four seconds left.

After missing the first free throw, Gray made the last one to give the Leopards a one-point lead.

The Sagehens threw the ball at the board with a second left but didn't succeed, and the game ended at 75-74.

Gray finished with 16 points, five rebounds, two assists and two steals.

"I think we're all pretty eager for what next season is going to bring," junior guard Caike Godoy said. "By next year we should be competing for the SCIAC tournament."

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

> 'I think we're all pretty eager for what next season is going to bring. By next year we should be competing for the SCIAC tournament.'
> *— Caike Godoy, junior guard*

Waterpolo loses again



Brooklyn Young, senior attacker, takes a shot under defensive pressure from Cal Lutheran on Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center. Young scored the Leopards' first goal of the game.



La Verne sophomore goalkeeper Miranda Graham positions herself in the net to defend against a fast-paced offensive attack from Cal Lutheran on Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center. The Leopards lost, 25-3, and are still looking for their first win of the season.

photography by Ronald Banks

Leopard Scoreboard

At the Buzzer

Softball, Feb. 20
La Verne – 4
George Fox – 3

Baseball, Feb. 21
La Verne – 10
Linfield – 5

Baseball, Feb. 21
La Verne – 16
Linfield – 5

Men's Basketball, Feb. 21
La Verne – 75
Pomona-Pitzer – 74

Women's Basketball, Feb. 21
La Verne – 56
Pomona-Pitzer – 65

Schedule

Friday
Baseball vs. Whittier, 2 p.m.
Softball vs. Occidental, 3 p.m.

Saturday
Men's and women's swimming and diving @ NCAA Regionals, all day
Baseball @ Whittier, 11 a.m.
Women's water polo @ Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 11 a.m.
Softball @ Occidental, noon
Softball @ Occidental, 2 p.m.
Baseball @ Whittier, 2:30 p.m.

Monday
Softball vs. Gustavus Adolphus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday
Women's water polo vs. Chapman, 6 p.m.

Women's basketball Standings

	SCIAC	Overall
Cal Lutheran	13-3	21-4
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps	12-4	18-7
Pomona-Pitzer	11-5	16-9
Redlands	11-5	19-6
Chapman	9-7	15-10
Occidental	7-9	12-13
Whittier	6-10	11-13
La Verne	**2-14**	**6-19**
Caltech	1-15	3-19

Leopards split series with Linfield

LV opens SCIAC play Friday

Lila Gongora
Staff Writer

The Leopards baseball team played a four-game series against Linfield last weekend, earning a split with the Wildcats at Ben Hines Field.

La Verne took a 9-7 game one loss on Feb. 20, swept the Saturday doubleheader by scores of 10-5 and 16-5, then lost on Sunday, 9-5.

Though the Leopards held a 7-6 lead against the Wildcats in the seventh inning on Feb. 20, inconsistencies on the mound ultimately led to a 9-7 loss for La Verne.

The Leopards went into their doubleheader Saturday knowing that they needed to work on competing as a team and not as individuals.

Sophomore right-handed pitcher Andrew Wente threw the first five innings of the first game of the doubleheader, only giving up one run on two hits and striking out five.

"We're a gritty bunch," Wente said. "Even though we're a young team I think we can easily get out of here with some more wins."

The pitcher's prediction was correct with senior shortstop Ryan Vosika driving in junior outfielder Jake Ledford for the first run of the game in the third inning.

Later in the same inning, senior third baseman Aaron Whobrey drove in a run and junior designated hitter Alek Bautista hit a three-run homerun, stretching the lead to 5-0 for the Leopards.

"I wanted to do my part and just help get the boys going," Bautista said. "I knew the pitcher was going to throw me a fast ball and I didn't want to get behind in the count."

The Wildcats got on the board with their first run in the top of the fourth inning, making it 5-1.

However, from the fifth through the seventh innings, Linfield struggled defensively and on the mound, committing errors and hitting multiple batters.

The Leopards capitalized on Linfield's mistakes during these innings and put up five more runs to extend their lead to 10-1 with multiple RBIs coming from different players.

Sophomore first baseman Isaiah Figueroa finished with two runs scored, two hits and two RBIs during Saturday's doubleheader.

"After our first loss, I think we knew that we needed to have a better process and attack this game better, then worry about the second game later," Figueroa said.

In the eighth inning of the first game, Linfield managed to make a comeback scoring four more runs against multiple La Verne pitchers to make the score 10-5.

"We were waiting these last couple of weeks for our offense to get going, and we got going today," head coach Scott Winterburn said. "It really comes down to executing better and doing a better job at what you're being asked to do, then we come back, go at it again and it worked out this time."

Linfield matched La Verne run-for-run through the first five innings of the doubleheader finale, but the Leopards dominated during the last four innings by scoring seven runs.

The Leopards went on to win the game, 16-5.

With an 11-inning closing game for the series Sunday, the Leopards fell short, 9-5.

La Verne now has an overall record of 2-3.

The Leopards will open up their official Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference season as they take on the Whittier Poets at Ben Hines Field at 2 p.m. on Friday, followed by a doubleheader at Whittier on Saturday.

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



Aaliyah Alamillo

La Verne senior third baseman Aaron Whobrey attempts to tag Linfield sophomore centerfielder Ryan Gulard at Ben Hines Field on Saturday. After Whobrey's attempt, Gulard was called safe. The Leopards won the game, 10-5.



Joseph Nocero

Junior Justin Ries delivers a pitch against Linfield on Friday at Ben Hines Field. Ries started the game and went three innings, allowing one earned run and striking out four.



Jasmine Lyn

Sophomore first baseman Isaiah Figueroa talks with senior second baseman Aiden Salcedo about strategy between innings Sunday at Ben Hines Field. Linfield beat La Verne, 9-5.