Campus Times

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Lecture brings light to Kenyan water

Anisa Salazar
Senior Editor

Department chair and professor of chemistry Nixon Mwebi was the speaker for the La Verne Academy lecture series at noon on Tuesday in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room.

With approximately 25 people in attendance, he presented "Sabbatical Reflections: Safari Driven Curriculum and Research Collaborations."

Mwebi's talk covered his study that took place while on a three-month sabbatical at Kisii University in Kenya.

"Only about 20% of the people living in the city have piped water and only about 20% have wells and boreholes," Mwebi said. "About 20% rain harvesting… and about 40% who rely on surface water, that's a whole lot of people."

His study on the Nyakomisaro River, which runs through Kisii in Kenya, was to determine the nutrient loads and physicochemical properties of the river in order to facilitate water quality management.

The results of the study confirmed that the water was unsuitable for drinking without treatment and highlighted the high-priority need for regulated water management to prevent the decline in quality and make river resources usable.

"What is more important than water," chair of the La Verne Academy and history professor Kenneth Marcus said. "Giving students and faculty the chance to see that larger perspective about issues confronting water and water usage and how we can create a better world in terms of that, I think that's a wonderful contribution."

Highlighting the sacrifices that the citizens in Kisii have to make, Mwebi answered why people continue to get into, or use the water from the river, despite the unsuitable quality.

"The system has not got to the point where they have the controls," Mwebi said. "People can't worry about getting in, like they do here."

He gave an example of when someone has not eaten for a few days and is extremely hungry. In that moment, they will not care that the food they get access to has the possibility of getting them sick a year from now. Their reasoning is that they are going to die anyway.

The people of Kisii cannot stop using the river water just because of the quality, that is all they have. "I've been using it, it's only now that you have settled here that you've made my water a mess," Mwebi said as their justification.

The La Verne Academy hosts these lectures twice a month for faculty to present their latest research, especially if they have gone on sabbatical or received a grant, and showcase scholarship. Their mission is to expand their reach, interdisciplinary work and collaborations, not just to other schools, but internationally.

"The research (Mwebi is) doing is demonstrating the kind of stuff La Verne Academy would love other people to do: collaborate, travel, meet people at other institutions and build those relationships," member of the La Verne Academy and associate dean Ngoc Bui said.

Junior computer science major Ava Chacon attended the lecture and found his research very relevant and eye-opening to how many more people across the world may not have access to clean water.

"Professor Mwebi's study is a gateway for conversation on what we should be doing to ensure water quality is sustainable for use for people who do not have access to piped water," Chacon said.

For more information about Mwebi's research study visit rdcu.be/e7UAs.

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Antonio Ceniceros

Nixon Mwebi, professor of chemistry, discusses his research Tuesday in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room. He traveled to Kenya to study the water quality of the Nyakomisaro River, as he considered the effects of pollutants and the approach of educating the next generation.

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Ready to graduate?

• *Be ready to pay because La Verne's grad fees are among the highest*

Olivia Russo
Editor-in-Chief

In order to graduate from the University of La Verne, students must complete all of their course requirements – and pay a $140 fee, which does not cover the cost of the regalia package that a student chooses to purchase.

"They are a supplemental fee that covers things like administration fees, applications, processes, diplomas, diploma covers and the ceremony itself," Veronica Ashcroft, director of events, scheduling and commencement, said. "So the rental, all the equipment, everything on the field, productions, all that stuff.

"Students who don't fill out that form or pay that fee, you never get that marked up spot," Ashcroft said. "It never gets checked."

Although commencement and registrar's offices address questions about this fee, they are not the ones who set the price.

"Fees get proposed by different entities, usually (the) budget offices (or) area that organizes the event," Juan Regalado, dean of students, said in an emailed response to the Campus Times' query. "Any proposals for fee increases ultimately go to the board."

Regalado said the graduation fees have not increased in over a decade.

Since 2017, the number of graduation ceremonies has decreased from six to two.

"Costs (have) significantly increased," Regalado said in his email. "The fees collected (are) less than the operational costs. To that end, we were always looking to reduce operational costs, while still trying to keep the event special. The reduction of commencement ceremonies was one of the more notable ways."

Nonetheless, some students feel the graduation fees – just to get over the finish line – after paying tens of thousands of dollars in tuition are a little too much.

"I'm paying my own tuition, and on top of that you have to … pay $140," Angie Morales, senior kinesiology major, said. "It's just an unnecessary extra cost. You have other fees like your graduation regalia and that's over $100 too… It doesn't explain either, it just says you need to pay – but what for?"

To keep final expenses more manageable, the commencement office suggests that students apply and pay for graduation two semesters in advance.

This advance planning can make these wrap-up expenses less overwhelming, and it allows the registrar's office to clear students for graduation faster.

"You have to apply and pay so that you get moved over to be checked," Ashcroft said. "I always say to do it in advance just in case something happens and you miss a transfer that comes through."

Other California colleges and universities also require gradu-

Continued on page 7

On the Cover

Catherine, played by junior kinesiology major Lauren Sandoval, confronts Hal, played by junior theater major Nathan Terrazas, in the La Verne theater arts department's production of "Proof" in Dailey Theatre. "Proof" tells the story of the gifted daughter of a world-renowned mathematical genius. / photo by Marina Bravo

State law would tax private prisons

Funds would help immigrants

Cassidy Diaz
Assistant Editor

California Assembly Member Matt Haney, D-San Francisco, recently introduced Assembly Bill 1633, which would impose a 50% tax on the for-profit corporations that run U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, detention facilities in California.

The revenue from this new tax would be directed to a new state immigration services fund, that would support immigration-related services. The bill would also reduce incentives for corporate profiteering.

Private prisons and detention facilities are known for cutting costs.

They have substandard facilities where they cut costs by housing too many detainees in one space, often without enough toilets, water source or beds.

The corporations that build and run these facilities have received millions in federal tax dollars to operate these dangerous and sometimes deadly facilities across the nation including in California.

One, The GEO Group, received more than $142 million to operate ICE detention facilities in Adelanto and Desert View.

Golden State Annex and Mesa Verde centers received more than $105 million for the Golden State Annex and Mesa Verde centers.

CoreCivic received roughly $130 million to operate the ICE-funded California City facility and more than $138 million for its Otay Mesa center.

According to a press release from Haney's office: "For years, ICE has fueled a system that profits from human suffering and family separation, outsourcing detention to private corporations who rake in profits while people endure dangerous, inhumane conditions."

"Corporations running these facilities are being paid hundreds of millions to detain people in cruelty right here in California, and it has to end," the press release read.

The proposed law would be the first in the nation to require that these corporations give back to the communities of whom they are profiting.

"It's a way to substantively block that approach to mass deportation, because if they can't acquire the space to detain these suspected undocumented immigrants," said Jason Neidleman, professor of political science. "(It could) actually substantively impact how many people they can detain."

Richard Gelm, professor of political science, is skeptical that the bill in its current form would pass the state legislature.

"It would be a very difficult thing to get passed through the legislature for a variety of reasons," Gelm said.

"A 50% tax is huge, and any time you're talking about a tax of 50%, that's an outrageous number."

Rick Hasse, professor of accounting and finance, added that while he appreciates the spirit of the proposed law, its enactment could be difficult.

"As somebody who knows how to operate a business, I know the idea of the bill is great, but it's defeating the whole purpose of why you're being in business in California," Hasse said.

"You can't ask a company to do business when you're taking a fixed expense of 50% off, unless you're in business to do the service and you don't care about making money," he said.

Hasse explained that there are certain ways to handle social issues, and how to handle business issues, and ways to find a balance.

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YOUR BUZZ COULD KILL.
Buzzed driving is drunk driving.
ad COUNCIL NHTSA



Antonio Ceniceros

International student Tim Dong and International Student Advisor Jim Brooks share a meal at the International Mix and Mingle event March 5 in the Ludwick Center. The event was an opportunity to explore study abroad opportunities and network.

Event hosts international students

The Office of International Services and Study Abroad Program hosted a Mix and Mingle on March 5 in the Ludwick Center. With roughly 15 students in attendance, the event offered a positive and welcoming environment for international students.

Students gathered at tables, conversing and enjoying a selection of catered food.

The event was designed to give students a chance to connect and appreciate the University's diverse cultures.

"Events like this (are) always a good way to … gain fruitful experiences among your peers," said Brooklyn Clark, a sophomore and student employee at the International Services and Study Abroad Program.

"A lot of our international students feel comfortable being in a space with people who share the same cultural background," said Maribel Rodriguez, director of the Office of International Services.

The office also has information sessions for those interested in study abroad.

"Cultural connections are a great way for students to learn new perspectives," International Student Advisor Jim Brooks said.

—Aniyha Williams

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New archivist brings stories to life

Cassidy Diaz
Assistant Editor

From the time she was a little girl, Keren Darancette loved the library, history, research and helping tell other people stories.

She thought she'd be a teacher or a writer, she said.

"In some ways I made it to be a teacher because I teach people about archives and help with research, and (I) get to be a writer because I write informational pieces on our history," Darancette said.

Her road to becoming the University's new archivist has had some twists and turns.

Darancette grew up in Claremont, where she still lives. She earned her bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Cal Poly Pomona. She worked in real estate for eight years, but ultimately didn't find it fulfilling.

"I was like, 'I need a career, what can I do?'" Darancette said. "Well I love books, I love writing."

She decided to go back to school and earn her master's degree in library and information science at San Jose State.

After completing that program online, she did an internship at Western University in Pomona, where she helped digitize and archive newspaper articles and make digital collections.

"Growing up, I loved the library," Darancette said. "In library school I thought, 'Oh I'll be a children's librarian because I love children's literature,' but then I worked with digital aspects and thought okay archiving's where it's at."

Darancette worked at the University of La Verne previously, from 2015 to 2020, as a part-time reference librarian. And she worked as a public librarian at Rancho Cucamonga Public Library after completing her master's degree.

When a position opened up in the archives here, Darancette applied. She was familiar with La Verne's archives as she had worked on former Congress member Grace Napolitano's collection previously.

"I have a personal connection to making information… people's stories and archives tell people's stories," she said.

Darancette said jobs such as the one she now has are not easy to come by. Libraries are underfunded, and the jobs don't always pay well, she said.

"We need librarians, we need archivists and museum curators," Darancette said. "If you love it and it's worth doing then don't give up."

Darancette works with students, whom she helps navigate the digital filing system, scanning and properly organizing materials.

"She's as excited about all this processing of University history as we students are to help," said Adonis Borer, senior psychology major, who is working with Darancette. "It's kind of nice to have someone who's equally as excited about finding new things and looking at rare or interesting university finds."

Borer, who started as a volunteer and now works in the archives, is currently working on the Campus Times collection and digitizing some of the first issues from 1919.

"We're pretty similar and really into history and all these old documents that I feel like a lot of people don't think are interesting," said Emma Hill, junior history major, also working with Darancette. "Just being able to have those conversations with her about different archives, (it) is interesting to piece the stories together in real time."

Hill is working on June Pulcini's collection of peace and activism work she did in South Asia, which she donated to the University. Pulcini died in 2025.



Mia Byington

Keren Darancette, the University's new archivist, works Tuesday in the Wilson Library archives. The library archives include a wide range of books, manuscripts and photographs, including many historical records of the University. They currently have drop-in hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-3 p.m., by appointment.

"(Darancette) is the sweetest person ever," said Nick Onalfo, freshman business administration major. "She's willing to take out as much time as needed just to make sure you understand what's going on."

Onalfo is currently working on digitizing the Church of Brethren collection for the University archives.

"People think archives are history," Darancette said. "But this is more than history. It's the theater department, the music department; it's writing and it's the entire college. I really hope to make a broader impact and I want everybody to know that their work is important, valued and seen."

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CAB hosts glow-in-the-dark laser tag outdoors

Lila Gongora
Staff Writer

The Campus Activities Board hosted a Guardians Assemble laser tag event Wednesday at Citrus Lawn.

This "Guardians of the Galaxy"-inspired event gave 150 students the opportunity to unwind with some friendly competition in laser tag while enjoying boba or loaded tater tots.

A blanket, record player and Lego Groot were a part of the raffle prizes.

CAB engagement chair Raquel Bojorquez, sophomore criminology major, came up with the idea for the event and helped to host it alongside her team.

"Coming back in the spring can be really stressful, so I thought it was a great idea to throw an event where people can relax and spend time together," Bojorquez said.

"These events wouldn't be able to be run just by me, it's an effort from all of us together and I love the community we have as Cabbies."

The event came together as a group effort from the CAB team who came up with 1980s-inspired decorations and music along with Marvel pieces inspired by the Guardians of the Galaxy, as well.

"I attend all the CAB events because I love the food and activities, so when our school is separated at times it can bring us all to one spot," Eva Bethea, freshman biology major said.

The food at this event was provided by DD's Ice Cream Catering who served loaded tater tots with toppings like cheese and bacon.

Milk tea and fruit tea boba drinks were provided by Boba Break Tea House located in Glendora.

"My favorite part of the Guardians Assemble event was getting boba," Kayla Tapia, freshman legal studies major, said.

"It was refreshing because it was so hot outside. I try to make an effort to attend these events because I think they are fun and engaging for the community of La Verne."

As students begin to get into the thick of their spring semester with midterms coming up they look forward to having a space that allows them to keep their mind relaxed while engaging in an activity.

Other students like Caydance Hook, junior biology major, explained a similar feeling of being able to have fun with her friends while feeling close to them at these types of events.

"I think these events provide an opportunity to meet other people and hang out with friends," Hook said.

The laser tag at this event was played within an inflatable dome with room inside for groups of six to eight people to go through and try to get each other out by tagging them with their laser by pointing at their opponent's vest.

Students were able to play with their friends or find a group of peers to compete against.

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HAPPENINGS

Unity Through Rhythm

The University of La Verne music department will present Unity Through Rhythm at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 18 in the Morgan Auditorium. This will be the finale for the Sundays at Morgan music series.

It will feature music from Igaba, with Ron Powell, Nat Scott, Cory Hogan and Homero Chavez.

Students are free. The suggested donation is $20.

For tickets, **visit bit.ly/ulvmusicshows.**

'Interference Patterns'

The Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College is hosting John Sparagana's exhibit "Interference Patterns," which explores art work composed of magazine pages, comic books and more. The exhibit will run until June 28.

The museum is located at 120 W Bonita Avenue in Claremont. The museum is open Thursday through Sunday.

For more information, visit **pomona.edu**.

'In the Green'

Ophelia's Jump Productions presents "In the Green," a musical by Grace McLean. The show is directed by Beatrice Casagrán with music direction by Rhonda Rubio.

The musical follows the story of St. Hildegard, a medieval nun, composer, scientist, writer and mystic trailblazer. The show runs through March 29.

For tickets and information, visit **app.arts-people.com.**

Pomona Art Walk

The monthly downtown Pomona Art Walk is happening from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. It features art, music, entertainment, food, handcraft goods and vendors.

The event starts at 197 W. Second St. The next art walk will be April 10.

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

—Cassidy Diaz

Play grapples with Mental health

by Natalia Rodriguez

photography by Marina Bravo



Catherine, played by junior kinesiology major Lauren Sandoval, reacts to the engagement of her sister Claire, played by sophomore international studies major Kessid Cooper, in the theater arts department's production of "Proof" in Dailey Theatre. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday, March 19, 20 and 21, and a matinee performance at 2 p.m. March 22. For ULV students tickets are free.

Catherine, played by junior kinesiology major Lauren Sandoval, reacts to the engagement of her sister Claire, played by sophomore international studies major Kessid Cooper, in the theater arts department's production of "Proof" in Dailey Theatre.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday, March 19, 20 and 21, and a matinee performance at 2 p.m. March 22.

"Proof" first premiered in May 2000. The play tells the story of Catherine, a gifted young woman who has been taking care of her mentally ill father, Robert, a mathematical genius.

One day, Hal, one of Robert's former graduate students, finds a mysterious mathematical proof in one of Robert's notebooks, which leads to questions about the true authorship.

The play centers around themes of mental health and familial relationships. The story takes place in Robert and Catherine's house in Chicago.

Scene one for both acts opens with the two of them conversing, showcasing their complex dynamic with each other.

"The play has some interesting challenges," Dillon said.

"It also has some kind of heightened emotional content, and some of the roles require the actors to really get in touch with some real emotional material."

"Working with these other actors feels really nice," senior theatre arts major Evan Jacobson, who plays Robert, said. "The cast is very talented, very professional as well."

The lighting and set, especially the projections during the transitions between each scene, helped to set the atmosphere. The cast stepped into their roles all the more because of it.

"I think I have such a different perspective on Catherine compared to the beginning when I first read the script," junior kinesiology major Lauren Sandoval, who plays Catherine, said.

"I've gotten to really know who she is, why she's making these choices, and the grief that comes with playing her, and the emotional vulnerability that comes with it also."

"Claire is very much an overprotective, maybe a little overbearing, sister-type," said Kessid Cooper, a sophomore international studies major playing Claire.

"Being a sister myself, I think, has helped me understand where she's coming from more and not only see how she's being annoying to Catherine. . . But also how she's genuinely trying to help in the best way she knows."

Both Sandoval and Cooper portrayed the script's intricate sister dynamic using tense body language, varied expressions, and occasional emotional outbursts.

Though Claire's protective nature is seen when she speaks to Catherine, it is also shown during her one-on-one conversation with Hal in Act Two.

Jacobson, similarly, also drew from his own experiences in order to portray Robert.

Though he only appears for three scenes, his performance brought the character to life, highlighting his imperfections primarily through his interactions with Catherine.

"Playing this role kind of made me think of how I could take aspects of my dad and kind of mold it into this role and to this character, and kind of dedicate this role to him," Jacobson said.

"They've [actors] worked very hard and taken the work very seriously, and that really shows in the evolution of their performances over the rehearsal period," Dillon said.

"Nothing sharpens an actor's skill more than a challenging piece of theater, and I think this is that."

"Proof" starts at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Additional performances will be at 7:30 p.m. March 19 through 21 and 2 p.m. on March 22 at the Dailey Theatre.

Ticket prices range from $7 to $18. Prices for students are $7.18.

For tickets, visit **eventbrite.com/e/proof-tickets-1983643157081.**

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Exhibition showcases mixed media

Sparagana explores collaging

Anisa Salazar
Senior Editor

John Sparagana's "Interference Patterns" exhibition is currently on display at the Benton Museum of Art in Claremont.

This is Sparagana's first survey exhibition that highlights his unique techniques of collaging.

His medium incorporates material from magazines, comic books, news images and his previous exhibition catalogues.

Sparagana's motive to work with media images is to change the way they are seen. From something informational to now a poetic or critical mode, his goal is to incorporate images in the media as an author instead of a consumer, he said in an interview in 2011 for Arts + Culture Magazine.

This survey exhibition is a loose timeline of Sparagana's work beginning in the early 2000s.

The first series on display, "I Wait for You Every Night," was prompted by the events on Sept. 11, 2001. Displayed are photographed magazine covers with projected shadows, obscuring the catalogs themselves.

Much of the artwork depicts political acts and movements, as well as comic book images of white masculinity in the United States. But, Sparagana never advocates for a specific political position. His goal in creating this art is to view the images in a different light, separate from their ideological homes.

"I think a really important thing for John is taking these pre-existing images and separating them from their ideological homes so that space is really important for him," visitor services manager Nilofar Naraghi said.



Joseph Nocero

Visitors gather at the Benton Museum at the Pomona College in Claremont on Saturday for the opening reception of John Sparagana's exhibit "Interference Patterns." The exhibit runs through June 28. Sparagana's work uses remixed and repurposed material from magazines, comic books and other publications. At the reception there was also live music for the guests.

"It's something that is usually uncomfortable, but being okay with that discomfort and sticking with it allows you to think about these people or situations differently."

The "Between the Eyes" series in 2008 marked a turning point in Sparagana's work, where he began to include a wide range of source material into one piece of art.

"The Revolutionaries/Kazimir Malevich, 'Hieratic Suprematist Cross,' 1918/Malevich, 'Black Square and Red Square,' 1915" is a piece that includes three different pieces of source material put together to create one.

Visitor Michael Butler enjoyed this piece because he studied Russian and was able to identify Malevich's work.

"It was revolutionary art trying to say something about authoritarian space, and now he's using it in this contemporary stuff," Butler said.

Butler connects this message to some of the last pieces of art shown in the exhibition from the "Crowds & Power" series in 2013. In reflection, he asked himself, "Are they protesting for a good cause or a bad cause, or does it matter?"

"(Sparagana) is trying to say the crowd, and the anger of the crowd, how we understand it, sympathize, or react against it, depends completely on context," Butler said. "Then, he is deliberately blurring the context so that you are forced to think about if it's a good or bad thing."

The remixing techniques that Sparagana has utilized make his work distinct and unique to him.

"I always enjoy the artists that have done this work, and not just this work, but it's all just so interesting to me," visitor Katherine Rubel said.

"Above whatever else I've learned about art, and did in art, this is so different."

The series "Rupture and Void," 2005-06, stood out to visitor Marlene Munguia. Two of the pieces are mostly white with holes revealing an image beneath the surface, while the others are pictures with a black void disrupting the images.

Munguia thought the handmade nature of all the work was interesting.

"Each textile is cut and placed a certain way, even little pieces are missing, which was done intentionally," Munguia said.

She describes "Themesong Variation #6," which, when looked at closely, you can see each individual pixel, with some having fallen off and not been replaced.

This alludes to his techniques of slicing, mixing and gluing while allowing the unpredictable to show through the art.

The exhibit is free to visit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday. As well as 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until June 28 at the Benton Museum of Art.

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Married musical duo take on chamber music

Donya Rouzbehi
Sports Editor

The departments of music at Pomona and Scripps Colleges presented The Mei Duo featuring Hao and Rachel V. Huang as part of the Friday Noon Concert Series, March 6 in the Balch Auditorium at Pomona Scripps College.

Rachel Huang played the violin while Hao Huang played piano for their chamber music performance.

They performed classical pieces by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel and Ludwig van Beethoven, which included "Adagio, H.72" released in 1823 and "Violin Sonata No. 10" in G Major.

The Huangs chose these pieces because of their own personal connections to them.

They both believed these musical compositions spoke to the crowd and wanted to share them with others.

"Well, Beethoven has always been one of my personal favorites," Hao Huang said.

"Partly because his music has powerfully spoken to me since I was a child, with power and eloquent empathy with the suffering of other human beings.

As one of the world's greatest composers who was deaf for more than half of his life, he is a real inspiration in terms of overcoming life's challenges."

He continued to give some backstory behind the Mendelssohn piece and the meaning behind it.

Mendelssohn was a neglected female composer performing at a time when sexism and patriarchy were normalized in 19th-century Europe.

"As professors at a women's college, Rachel and I have been advocates for the work of great women composers," Hao Huang said.

They believe music is a shared experience and an art form that goes beyond words and thoughts.

Music challenges them to cross the borders of time, culture and locality.

As a married couple, they performed what Hao Huang called "a very intimate form of music making."

He said it's a blessing to be able to collaborate with his wife artistically as well as personally.

"The violin and piano are equal partners, and we communicate to each other, like two different characters in a story," Hao Huang said.

They both enjoyed performing in the Balch Auditorium due to its acoustics and seniority.

The couple feels lucky to have been at Scripps for a long time.

"We feel we know a lot of the members in the audience who have been coming for years to listen to us, which we appreciate," Hao Huang said. "Music is something we share together."

Throughout her career, Rachel Huang has taught violin at the University of La Verne's music department for a few years.

She also conducted the La Verne Symphony Orchestra, which consists of students and others in the community.

Rachel Huang has loved the Friday Noon Series because of its unity and appreciation for classical music.

"I love it because it's really a community thing," Rachel Huang said. "I adore the way our colleges are resources for people to participate in experiencing art."

Rachel Huang's deepest interest is chamber music, which she performed alongside her husband at the concert. Chamber music means "small group," usually performed by up to five people as opposed to an orchestra.

"Chamber music is my favorite," Rachel Huang said. "The pieces that we played today are in that category, so these were a collaboration, an ongoing conversation, between the two instruments."

Students at the recital enjoyed the performance and encouraged others to attend future shows in the series.

University of La Verne junior computer science major Aastha Baral said she'd definitely come again.

"It was my first time here and I really enjoyed it," Baral said. "The duo performed together very well and their flow was nice."

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DIY music lights up The Haven

Marina Bravo
Arts Editor

Downtown Pomona rocked out on Saturday with energetic and versatile bands playing at The Haven. Bands showcased their diverse genre styles with each band that championed the stage.

The doors opened at 7:30 p.m. and Just Let Me Go took the stage. The three-piece band started with a dream-like sound and ripped through their set with frying vocals. Vocalist and guitarist Aleksi Noe Madriga, vocalist and bassist Adaline, and drummer Cesar from El Centro, California immersed the audience.

The bands that followed were Denial Party, Cataracts, Loomer, Yeah We Kissed, Perfidia, A Perfect Portrait and Paris Needs You.

Members of the noise-pop band from Riverside, Yeah We Kissed, Bella Albarran, Amory Baez, Jack Hardy and Bird organized the event.

"I organized the show for my girlfriend's birthday," Bird said. "She loves all kinds of different music and I asked a bunch of people if they would play and they showed up. It was a strange night. Shoegaze-metal core-screamoviolence one strange night for sure."

The band identifies themselves as a noise-pop band, which is a sub genre that ties alternative rock and indie together. Their unique sound entranced the audience.

They opened up about how, as a band, they enjoy making the music they do and how important it is to have spaces for peace through music and artistic expression. The Haven is a place that allows them to do that.

"The Haven is such a cool venue and the people working there are just the nicest and go above and beyond for the art," Albarran said. "My main reason is because my favorite bands play here and I wanted to share a stage with them. I also wanted my name to go on the wall."

Each band brought their own sounds and played a set of around seven songs. Some bands even traveled out of state for this event.

Loomer is a shoegaze noise band from Phoenix that took the stage and energized the audience. The four-piece band not only brought their energy but also brought out their passion. Vocalist Scarlet Fife shared how Yeah We Kissed invited them to come down to Pomona and they couldn't pass up the opportunity.

DIY or Do It Yourself is a staple in this community of alternative music. It is their religion. The Haven, standing as a DIY venue, opens doors for so many young artists to explore this and it was so relevant during the show.

"People see DIY as people throwing down, getting violent, getting crazy, but that's really not it," Fife said. "I think it's something beautiful because a lot of times we don't realize how much music brings us together."

Fife mentioned that no matter if someone comes from a rich family or a middle-class family, DIY and alternative music have a place for anyone.

The Haven did just that with this show. Individuals, young and old, were able to celebrate the local art and share a moment together. This is a common theme that happens at every show at the venue.

"Music is the peace the world needs," Hardy said. "DIY and DIY venues gives us the playground and the freedom to do whatever the fuck we want. Fuck the mainstream and fuck money-hungry labels."

The night was loud and fun as the music never stopped. The Haven, full of people moshing and singing along to their favorites and new favorites. The energy was never lost from either the performers or the crowd.

"It really comes down to when you're able to be you in a room with all these different people," Fife said. "You realize we're all fucking different and yet the same.

It's really just like a breath of fresh air. Like I feel accepted. I feel safe."

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Vicente Rodriguez

Lead vocalist Scarlet Fife of Loomer brings the energy Saturday at The Haven in downtown Pomona. Loomer is a shoegaze noise band from Arizona.



Vicente Rodriguez

Singer and guitarist Aleksi Madrigal of Just Let Me Go rocks out as the bands close the first performance at The Haven in downtown Pomona on Saturday. Just Let Me Go is a Southern California based emo, screamo and math rock band.

Grad fees...

Continued from page 2

ation fees. The Cal States' fees range from $30 to $175, with most under $100; San Jose State and Sonoma State do not charge at all.

Among local private colleges, Scripps asks students for $70 to graduate, while Pomona College has no graduation fee and also covers the cost of caps and gowns.

University of Redlands, likewise, does not charge a graduation fee, while Whittier College charges students $45 to participate in graduation ceremonies.

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Softball takes 2 of 3 from Whittier

Daniel Franklin
Staff Writer



Aaliyah Alamillo

La Verne sophomore designated player Aries Alonso runs into Whittier sophomore catcher Mariah Rodriguez to score at Campus West on Saturday. Alonso had advanced to home on throwing errors made by Whittier.

La Verne won a three-game series against Whittier, defeating the Poets, 8-2, on March 6 at Palmer Field, and then splitting a doubleheader Saturday at Campus West, winning game one, 5-3, before dropping game two, 14-11.

La Verne senior outfielder Allie Colenzo had three RBI, two hits and two runs in the Friday game.

"We learned that this team has a lot of fight and a lot of grit," Colenzo said. "This game showed that it truly takes everyone to earn a win, from the smallest calls to the biggest plays."

Junior first baseman Kileah Lologo hit her first career home run Saturday and the Leopards' offense took off. La Verne scored 16 runs across two games as they split the doubleheader.

"This team won't back down, and we all have the same drive to win," Lologo said. "I have no doubt that every girl will rise to each challenge, I'm very excited to be a part of this team."

As the Leopards offense surged by many great performances at the plate from Lologo and freshman second baseman Angelina Ratzlaff. The Leopards' offense steamrolled in the win in Saturday's first game.

Lologo went 2-for-2, bringing in three runs including her first career homer as a Leopard in the bottom of the fifth.

Ratzlaff matched the offensive drive with a 3-for-3 performance, adding a run and an RBI of her own to keep the lineup going throughout the game.

"Going into the game we knew it wasn't going to be easy, but I feel like this team has so much persistence," Ratzlaff said. "Our chemistry has only been growing, and I think that's what helps us get stronger as a whole."

La Verne sophomore pitcher Briana Vasquez entered the circle in the fourth inning and shut the Poets down helping secure the win. She went four innings in her outing, allowing just one run to cross on four hits while striking out two.

La Verne freshman left-handed pitcher Angelina Garcia got to start on the circle for the Leopards going 1.2 innings. La Verne senior pitcher Jaidynn Alvarez also stepped in and pitched 1.1 innings with no hits and allowed no runs.

"Taking the series against Whittier felt really good for our team. Our bats were hot and we competed hard all series long, even in the crazy weather conditions," freshman catcher Allison Gutierrez said. "These past few games really showed the kind of energy and chemistry that this team is capable of when we're playing together."

The offense added another run in the fourth inning. Ratzlaff singled through the left side to drive in sophomore designated player Aries Alonso. The momentum continued in the fifth inning after amazing swinging from Lologo, who launched a solo home run to left-center field to extend the lead.

"This win says a lot about our team's character. We've been working really hard and staying focused on supporting each other," Alonso said. "Everyone stepped up, trusted one another, and it proved that when we compete as a team we can beat anyone."

Lologo wasn't finished at the plate. In the sixth inning, she pulled through again with a single to center field that plated both junior outfielder Kylee Knight and Ratzlaff.

Lologo added two big runs and put the game out of reach. Vasquez picked up the win, moving to 5-3 while Whittier starter Mariah Zapata collected her second loss of the season.

La Verne now has an overall record of 8-7, and 5-1 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

La Verne will host a midweek nonconference doubleheader against Minnesota-Morris at 1 p.m. March 17.

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LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Baseball, March 7
Gustavus Adolphus – 2
La Verne – 4

Women's Water Polo, March 7
Austin – 21
La Verne –14

Women's Water Polo, March 7
Iona – 19
La Verne – 2

Baseball, March 8
Bethany Lutheran – 5
La Verne – 15

SCHEDULE

Friday
Baseball @ Mary Hardin-Baylor, 4 p.m.

Saturday
Baseball @ Mary Hardin-Baylor, 11 a.m.
Baseball @ Mary Hardin-Baylor, 1:30 p.m.
Women's water polo @ Caltech, 7 p.m.

Monday
Men's and women's golf @ Cal Lutheran Invitational, all day

Tuesday
Men's and women's golf @ Cal Lutheran Invitational, all day
Softball vs. Minnesota-Morris, 1 p.m.
Softball vs. Minnesota-Morris, 3 p.m.

BASEBALL STANDINGS

	SCIAC	Overall
Cal Lutheran	3-0	12-3
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps	4-2	9-4
Occidental	4-2	11-4
Pomona-Pitzer	4-2	12-6
Redlands	4-2	8-11
La Verne	**2-1**	**9-4**
Chapman	2-4	5-10
Whittier	1-5	5-11
Caltech	0-6	3-14