Campus Times

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Inside

L.A. County Fair returns p4
BOLO, Mike Sherm rock Lavernapalooza p5
Senior art exhibit opens in Harris p6

Symposium promotes community college

Raquel Campos
Staff Writer

The LaFetra College of Education hosted a community college leadership symposium for its leadership development series on May 7 at the Hillcrest Senior Living Center in La Verne.

Guests and leaders gathered from different universities and community colleges to highlight the importance of community college. They also discussed a variety of different career paths for college graduates. Speakers talked about their time in college, the strategies they used to guide them through their education and more.

Among the speakers were Jamal Cooks, the president of Chabot College in Hayward; Barbara Dunsheath, board president of the North Orange County Community College District; and Alberto J. Roman, a University of La Verne alumnus and chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District. They highlighted the opportunities community colleges offer.

Micah Rhodes, an administrator for the dual enrollment department, talked about the impact of his experience during the event. Chaffey's dual enrollment program allows high school students to take college classes while still in high school.

"I was most excited about being involved in a leadership ideation," Rhodes said. "A lot of these people are stakeholders for the education in the state of California and seeing what they're doing, how they're succeeded, what challenges they face. It was cool to be there and get some leadership knowledge."

Activities for participants allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of how these leaders came to be and what they do for the community.

A student commented about her opinion on events like these and how they serve her as a student.

"There are so many options for education, and these events are important to have because seeing their experiences gives us an idea of how to become figures like them, and they serve as role models in a way," Leslie Covarrubias, freshman business major, said.

Senior education major Jaquay Williams said she found the event inspirational.

"They just give you insight into the types of careers," Williams said.

Roman was honored with an alumni award that recognized his hard work and passion for community colleges. He spoke about the opportunities he took during his upbringing, which have propelled him to where he is now.

Dee Sigh, freshman physics major, also reflected on the meaning behind these events and how he felt they could serve the community and fellow peers.

"A lot of people think that you have to go to four years to be successful, but there's always so many other options, and this helps people see that," Sigh said.

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Luse gives business tips



Marina Bravo

Associate Professor of Business Management William Luse gives us a business answer and discusses startup companies' online presence and how it helps them connect with stakeholders and signal viability in his faculty lecture Tuesday at the Quay Davis Executive Board Room. Luse spoke to a group of 13 professors, students and virtual guests via Zoom.

Kelly shares her immigrant journey

Around 20 community members gathered May 7 in the Ludwick Center for this month's "What Matters to Me and Why" talk by Professor of Management Louise Kelly.

Kelly highlighted her Scottish and Irish roots and connected her cultural upbringing in her lecture.

Kelly spoke about her parents' experience immigrating from Scotland, how education became the foundation of their family and how it shaped her growing up.

"(My mom) was a good student, but due to a quota (of Irish Catholic students), she needed the parish priest to advocate for her education," Kelly said.

"For her family, education was not taken for granted—it opened doors both geographically and mentally, allowing them to experience new worlds.

We see this at the University of La Verne, where education creates new opportunities for students."

Kelly spoke about her journey, how she found her voice and how she uses it in her books.

She also asked the audience to consider who they believe they are in society and how they would like to use their voice.

Megan Granquist, professor of kinesiology, who attended the lecture said she enjoyed hearing Kelly's story.

"When I come to events like this I get very emotional because I do not know most of the heartache and struggles people went through to be here or where they are now."

"Every immigrant has a different story," said Katy Tangenberg, dean of the college of health, who also attended the Thursday lecture.

"This lecture was very meaningful because of the state of the world currently with all the immigration issues," Tangenberg added.

—Kalayah Frazier

On the Cover

A Nubian goat helps itself to a food cup at the Los Angeles County Fair on Friday in Pomona. Visitors in the petting farm area of the Big Red Barn can feed the animals for $2 to $3. / photo by Baljot Rathor

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Students face more financial stress

Over 50% considered dropping out

Olivia Russo
Editor-in-Chief

College students today have an increased level of financial strain and money anxiety, as the price of education rises, along with the costs of everything else around them increasing. Currently, most students pay for their own tuition, their bills and any other expenses they may need covered to get through the week.

Due to this strain, students have a higher risk of dealing with mental health crises along with school burnout, which can negatively impact their grades. In a national survey conducted by Ellucian, 59% of students considered dropping out and 80% reported a negative impact on their mental health, because of financial stress.

"Paying for basic necessities, rent, gas is becoming increasingly difficult," Katie Berger, strategy director at Lumina Foundation, said. "Then to layer on top of that, tuition, fees, parking on campus, books…it's a lot for students to balance. Of course, you're also having to spend time in the classroom and on homework that often means you have to cut back on working hours."

According to the Lumina Foundation, 47% of students do not rely on their parents for financial support during college. BCU reported that 78% of college students feel effects on their mental health due to financial issues.

Students are often juggling both work and academics during the semester, which means that they often choose to focus on one over the other, leading to a decrease in either their pay or their grades.

If a student were to cut back on their job, they would not have money to afford school, but if they were to cut back on their schoolwork, they may not be able to pass their classes. This strain can lead to negative consequences, which can manifest both physically and mentally.

"This anxiety is like any other anxiety, so that can manifest in multiple ways for different people," Elleni Koulos, director of counseling and psychological services, said. "Some people get stomach aches when they're feeling worried or anxious. Some people get headaches."

Koulos added that students may experience impacts on their eating and sleeping habits. They may lose sleep due to worry or various commitments they have made to different things, or loss of appetite because they do not feel well or do not have money to pay for food.

"That's one of the top reasons why students are taking a break from college or from classes, so it can impact them academically as well," Nicole Mullis, senior consultant on the higher education team at the JED Foundation, a nonprofit that protects mental health and prevents suicide, said. The founders, Donna Satow and Phil Satow, started the organization after their son, Jed, died by suicide.

To help combat this issue, a few colleges and universities across the country are developing programs to offer students some additional financial aid that they can use to help them afford the semester. Originally rising during the COVID-19 pandemic, the packets have since slowed, but there are efforts to bring these programs into the forefront of higher education.

There are also general efforts and resources that may be available to students if they feel a strain on their finances during the school semester. The JED Foundation offers an online resource center where users can watch videos of real-life stories, get advice and learn about the topic itself.

"We encourage students to remember that most colleges and universities have some sort of resource on campus that can help with financial literacy or understanding," Mullis said.

The University of La Verne does offer some resources for students and faculty struggling with financial issues. Rick Hasse, instructor of accounting and finance, offers financial coaching, which can help students make a budget and navigate financial worries.

> 'Paying for basic necessities, rent, gas is becoming increasingly difficult.'
> *—Katie Berger, Lumina Foundation strategy director*

"I run into these situations all the time with our financial coaching," Hasse said. "We have a program here where students, faculty and staff can come and talk about financial problems and financial issues."

Hasse shared that there is a common link between lack of knowledge and financial woes.

"Most of the students who come to school here are never fully explained about their debt situation when they're borrowing student loans," Hasse said. "No one ever sits down and explains it to me."

There are also mental health resources, like CAPS, Tri-City Mental Health Services and TimelyCare are available for all students at ULV to speak about and normalize their fears.

"We can teach them coping skills," Koulos said. "Everyone has coping skills, some are positive and some are negative. So we can help the student assess what their coping skills already are."

The biggest thing when it comes to money anxiety is normalizing for others so they may not feel less alone.

"This is a challenge a lot of students face, and we've seen some real resilience and strength of students figuring it out," Berger said.

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Psi Chi hosts research conference



Above: Senior psychology major Ahsha Jones, president of the Psi Chi Chapter at La Verne, delivers her opening remarks at the Psi Chi Research Conference on Saturday in Ludwick Center Sacred Space. She explained the purpose and goals of Psi Chi.

Right: Katy Tangenberg, dean of the College of Health and Community Well-Being, presents her research on how the COVID pandemic affected clinical training, with an emphasis on telehealth and trauma at the Psi Chi Research Conference on Saturday in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space. She spoke about how unprepared institutions were for the lockdowns, how they affected everyone and what improvements have now been made.

photography by
Amore Mason



Fair features furry friends, reptiles

Aniyha Williams
Staff Writer



Baljot Rathor

A selection of Boer, Nubian and Alpine goats, along with sheep, gather around visitors in the petting farm Friday at the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona. The animals were part of the fair's livestock exhibits showcasing a variety of agricultural breeds.

The Los Angeles County Fair, down the street from the University at the Fairplex in Pomona, opened May 7 and among the wide variety of events, rides and exhibits is a host of animals to visit, watch perform and interact with.

An assortment of farm animals including goats, sheep, cows and pigs are on hand, along with alpacas and llamas.

There are also birds and snakes.

Animal events also include barnyard pig races, an aquatic dog show, and service dogs.

Visitors can step into the petting zoo with the goats and sheep, and can even feed and pet them.

Alondra Meza Almenza, a Cal Poly Pomona student volunteer at the petting farm was enjoying her work during a recent shift.

"I always had a heart for agriculture and animals," Almenza said. "It's a great opportunity to get involved in the community and see so many people come together."

Kevin Martinez, who works with the Burmese pythons on hand in another exhibit talked about caring for the reptiles.

"I'm currently working with four snakes in the exhibition," Martinez said. "It takes a lot of love, care and patience."

Jo Ann Roettgen, operations manager of the Canine Support Team talked about the dog's work.

"Our mission is to provide specially trained dogs to persons with disabilities," Roettgen said. "Service dogs can be a life changing difference for those out there in need."

Visitors to the Fair's farm exhibit can learn how to milk cows including instruction in how to properly "dress" udders in an iodine solution and place the milking valves correctly.

"It's very amazing to be able to learn the behind the scenes process of the dairy products we consume and all that goes into producing and distributing to the public," said Bianca Ruiz, who gave it a go. The Fair is on through May 31.

For tickets and information, visit **lacountyfair.com**.

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Golf gives students a tee-rific chance to relax

Donya Rouzbehi
Sports Editor

The University's Campus Activities Board hosted a "Golf'd Up" event Tuesday at Citrus Lawn, complete with a virtual golf simulator experience for students, mini putt, free sub sandwiches and chips.

The event was a needed break between classes. Students got to compete for prizes and spend time with friends before finals week.

About 30 students in all lined up to try the simulator and mini-putt activities, which challenged them to hit a virtual golf shot at least 75 yards to win prizes like free ULV merchandise.

Organizers said the simulator was not something the group normally offers for campus events, making it a new and fresh activity for students to experience together.

Junior business major and CAB organizer, Kaitlyn Pamintuan, enjoyed putting.

"Honestly, we never had an event really similar to this," junior business major and CAB organizer, Kaitlyn Pamintuan said. "I think it's really cool that everyone's trying out the simulator, trying out new things. I don't think I've ever seen people come out and actually be involved in an activity like this before."

CAB brought in several vendors for the event, including food and activity providers, to create a larger campus experience for students. They said the free food was a big incentive for them to attend the event.

Freshman business major and soccer player Kai Garza felt encouraged to come to the event for the free lunch and opportunity to try out a new activity.

"To be honest, the food brought me out here," Garza said. "I got an Italian sub and chips. My (soccer) team wanted to play golf, there's good vibes."

Students took turns swinging the golf club in front of the virtual screen while friends watched and reacted to each shot. Other students competed in mini putt while friend groups gathered on the lawn to talk and listen to music.

Some participants celebrated successful shots while others laughed at missed shots, creating a fun and relaxed atmosphere on the lawn for students to de-stress. CAB members and vendors arrived about two hours before the event began to prepare the whole setup.

Junior digital media major and CAB member Artemis Statler helped organize the event.

"We set up all the different tablecloths for everything," Statler said. "We set up the canopies to make sure the vendors know where they're going to be setting up and have enough time to set up everything they need. If they need power or electrical kits or anything, we get that stuff sent to them."

The event was designed to give students a fun and social activity between their classes, providing them with a moment to pause and relax with friends. Several students said the interactive games made the event feel different from many other campus programs.

Freshman accounting major Damian Lopez attended after his class with some friends. Lopez expressed his feelings about the event and thought it brought positive vibes to campus.

"The energy was there," Lopez said. "The music was there. The virtual golf definitely caught everybody's attention. It's very interesting and a lot of fun."

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Stephanie Amaya

Jashion Wade, freshman kinesiology major, goes yard on the virtual golf simulator by Tee'd Up Golf LA, Wednesday at the Golf'd Up event hosted by CAB at Citrus Lawn. The event also offered a miniature putting green, a variety of different sandwiches and a chance to win University of La Verne merch.

HAPPENINGS

Guitar Ensemble

The University of La Verne music department will host a Guitar Ensemble concert.

The concert will be at 1:30 p.m. May 17 in Morgan Auditorium.

Admission is free.

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

'Nine Reflections'

Senior photography majors are showcasing their "Nine Reflections: 2026 Senior Thesis Exhibition," until Aug. 1 in the Irene Carlson Gallery of Photography in Miller Hall.

The exhibit features works of graduating senior photography majors.

For more information, email Fred Brashear Jr. at **fbrashear@laverne.edu.**

'Bon Voyage Concert'

The University of La Verne music department will perform a 'Bon Voyage Concert.'

It will feature the Jubel Singers, professor of music Michael Ryan and the ULV Chamber Singers.

The concert will be at 3 p.m. June 7 in Morgan Auditorium.

Tickets are $20, with free admission for students.

All proceeds will go to funding the ULV Chamber Singers' travel expenses.

For more information, **music@laverne.edu** or call 909-448-4917**.**

Route 66 Centennial

The Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion Committee, a non-profit organization based in La Verne, and ULV's Race and Ethnicity course are collaborating for an exhibition about Route 66.

The exhibition will be open from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. May 26 at the welcome room of the Hillcrest retirement community at 2705 Mountain View Dr. in La Verne.

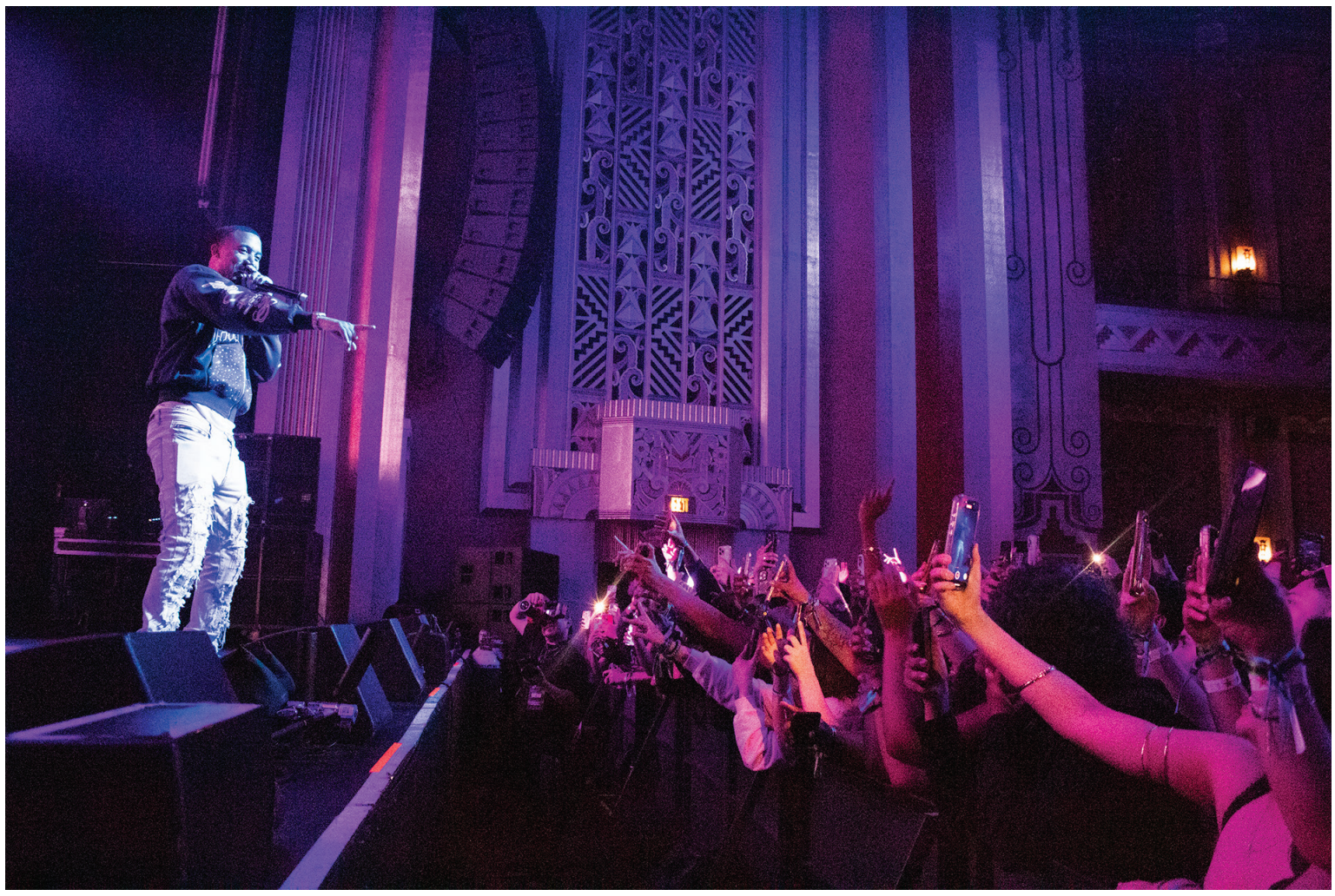
For more information, email **casi.laverne@gmail.com.**

—Olivia Russo

LaVernapalooza showcases EDM and rap

by Marina Bravo

photography by Mia Byington



Mike Sherm hypes up the crowd at Lavernapalooza May 7 at the Fox Theater. The annual concert for ULV students drew a crowd of about 1,200 people. Sherm was the third act to play during the night.

The most anticipated event for the University of La Verne, Lavernapalooza, excited the students and guests, May 7 at the Pomona Fox Theater.

With headliner BOLO, accompanied by Mike Sherm, Close Friends Only and Jezzy B.

The doors opened at 6 p.m. and the music started at 7 p.m. with the first performer being DJ Jezzy B. Students were anticipating the night full of music.

Tickets sold out with a total of 550 General Public tickets and 685 University students attended.

Although the excitement for the event was present, especially leading up to the concert date, it was hard to tell what the turn out would be. When BOLO the EDM DJ was revealed as the headliner, many mixed emotions were shared amongst the student body and on online platforms like Fizz.

"I had a really great experience and time at LaVernapalooza," Gabriella Garcia, a guest who purchased a general admission ticket, said. "I really liked the line up, but maybe that is just because I do love Mike Sherm."

Many students shared similar thoughts, as Sherm was the artist that stuck out the most for many guests. Sherm was the clincher for the anticipation for the event.

Close Friends Only was the first official act of the night. They are a three piece EDM DJ act from the Coachella Valley.

They got the crowd moving with their mix of "Latch," by Sam Smith.

Sherm followed and performed many of his hits. Songs like, "Asshole," "Baby" and "Homecoming" had the crowd moving around.

> 'This is my last LaVernapalooza so this is really special. There was nothing but good vibes all around from the performers and the audience.'
> *– Cassandra Monreal, senior child development major*

"I brought my cousin with me and we came for Mike Sherm," Paloma Lara, senior child development major said. "The event was so fun and the energy was definitely there. Especially where we were sitting up on the balcony."

BOLO took the stage and many students still were not sure if they understood the whole EDM scene. That did not stop BOLO from bringing the energy. He performed many mixes that left the crowd shocked with each beat drop.

"I think BOLO did a really great job," Garcia said. "He was a great way to end the night. When he brought out Shoreline Mafia, I loved that. It was my favorite part and stood out to me the whole night."

BOLO won hearts when he brought out rapper OhGeesy of Shoreline Mafia as a surprise guest. This was the first collaboration the two artists have done together, which created possible speculation online for a collaboration in the near future.

The event showcased a new genre of music to many ULV students. Something that is out of the ordinary Rap acts that have been had in the past. BOLO being the first Latino EDM DJ headliner for the event, it was a coming together of two worlds.

LaVernapalooza once again became a spot that arguably serves as the end of the school year event. It brought the energy and the La Verne spirit to the Pomona Fox Theater.

"Every artist had me singing and dancing," Cassandra Monreal, senior child development major said. "This is my last LaVernapalooza so this is really special. There was nothing but good vibes all around from the performers and the audience."

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Artists share their best in final show

Natalia Rodriguez
Staff Writer



Vicente Rodriguez

Guests view the artwork at the opening reception for the graduating senior art exhibition, "What We Carried" on Tuesday at the Harris Gallery. The exhibition showcases work from 14 senior art majors and runs through May 20.

"What We Carried," an art exhibition by senior art majors opened with a reception Tuesday in the Harris Gallery.

The event and exhibit highlighted a diverse collection of artworks by the graduating studio artists, including Katrina Bohanec, Anna Bueno, Aidan Catullo, Isabella Collazo, Lotus Lancelot, Julia Luera, Megan Montez, Joseph Nicosia, Abby Nivera, Ryan Ortega, Gerardo Ramirez, Chris Tadros, Coraline Wang and Lucas Watts.

Keith Lord, professor of art and instructor for the senior seminar class, honored his students' efforts.

"This exhibition is a group show … designed to give all the seniors the experience of doing all the work that it takes to make an exhibition," Lord said.

Collazo's piece, for example, is set up with the intention of having guests look very closely at each part of it. She recently titled the multimedia artwork "As I Grow."

The main canvas depicts her painting next to a small rabbit wearing a yellow sweater. On the floor surrounding the canvas were an assortment of objects that depict her at different stages in her life.

"I wanted a lot of things that would kind of complete who I am today as well as in the future of what I define myself to be," Collazo said. "I think everybody has a little bit of child within them and I think that they should take that on through the rest of their lives."

Some of the objects included a small nightstand filled with scattered art supplies, a small 3D model of the very hungry caterpillar, a copy of The Catcher in the Rye and an acoustic guitar.

Nicosia displayed four works. His inspiration came from art made during the Renaissance, like that of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, which has been an interest of his since he was a child.

'This exhibition is ... designed to give all the seniors the experience of doing all the work that it takes to make an exhibition.'
–Keith Lord, professor of art

Three of his pieces are almost entirely in black and white, barring the yellow halo-like crown of one and the reddish square background of another. The subjects are almost statue-like in appearance.

"When I do my art and I put it up to be displayed, I want people to kind of see a part of my world, and my interests and what I like, and I want them to be able to be a part of that," Nicosia said. "But I also hope that they're able to see a part of their own world in my world."

Many of these pieces are untitled except for the colorful "Blue and Yellow Girl." This work, composed of pastels and colored pencils on multimedia paper, depicts a woman amidst a landscape of different colored shapes. Lancelot showcased two oil paintings. One of them, untitled, depicts Artemis lying on a patch of grass next to a deer and surrounded by flowers, a serene expression on her face.

His other work, titled "Not the Devil," portrays a bat clutching a bouquet.

"The bat. . . it's an animal," Lancelot said. "It doesn't have its own language, it can't defend itself, and it's been demonized throughout history. The purpose of that was to show that we as humans apply our language to everything."

Lancelot also brought in a book about the language of flowers, which guests were encouraged to look through to unravel the meanings behind both paintings. Amber Young, a guest who attended the reception, came in support of Lancelot. She expressed her pride in not just his work, but in all the seniors and their ability to create wonderfully reflective pieces.

"I think it's really beautiful to see them explore (art) deeply, and I don't think a lot of people take that opportunity to take something that they really love and dive into it. . ." Young said. "It's success in a way that really tests what they learned as an art student here," Lord said.

"How art really conveys important ideas and also can be beautiful and thought-provoking."

The Harris Gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday to Thursday. This senior project exhibition runs until May 20.

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Creative writers celebrate Prism 2026 launch

Natalia Rodriguez
Staff Writer

The University of La Verne's creative writing program hosted the launch party for the newest issue of Prism Review, ULV's literary magazine on Tuesday in Abraham Campus Center.

About 30 community members attended the hour long event emceed by senior creative writing major Cadence Burdwell. It started with members of the senior student staff for the journal reading an assortment of pieces from the new issue.

While the University's literary magazine has been around for decades, in 2008, Professor of Creative Writing Sean Bernard took charge of running it and brought in undergraduate creative writing majors and minors to work on the editing and production process.

"It occurred to me that it's much more beneficial for students to learn how to do those t hings," Bernard said. "To really get immersed in the design and the creation and the production of the journal."

For the students, the process begins in the fall literary magazine staff class, which is open to everyone regardless of major. Throughout the semester, students read through a series of submissions, discuss them and select which pieces should advance to the continuing spring version of the class.

In the spring, students, typically creative writing majors and minors, read more submissions, like short fiction and poetry.

Around early to mid-March, they begin the process of putting the physical book together by splitting off into groups and then editing pieces, interviewing writers, writing book reviews and preparing for the launch, among other things.

Ethan Bullock, sophomore creative writing major, said he really enjoyed his time working to create the journal.

"My sister's very involved in publishing, so I know a little bit about the ins and outs of publishing, but I was never fully involved in it myself," Bullock said. "So being in this class really helped widen my experiences in stuff like this, and we get to know more about what's going on in this type of…industry."

Some of Bullock's responsibilities included interviewing authors whose works were published in the journal. He conducted a short interview with Zibusiso Mpofu, who wrote "August," a short fiction piece.

He also spoke at length with Sarah Fawn Montgomery, the judge of a national non-fiction contest.

The last person to read was Adonis Borer, a senior psychology major, who won the undergraduate creative writing contest.

He shared his piece "Our Lady Pomona," a collection of three flash creative nonfiction stories.

Borer, a creative writing minor, said the piece is a part of his larger senior project for the creative writing program. He said he wanted to write about the way he sees the city of Pomona, having lived there his whole life, in contrast to how others may view it.

"It was important for me to write about something I have always had really comforting and good experiences with," Borer said. "And writing that in juxtaposition with everyone else's opinions that it's dangerous... and all these negative things."

Having submitted work each year for the contest, Borer was happy to have won right before graduating.

"I'm always super excited when I get published, but I think it's another thing... to be published here at this university because it's given me so much, and I've learned so much," Borer said. "Even after I'm about to leave, my name is still gonna be here in the program in some capacity."

To finish off the event, the entire staff went on stage and discussed their time in the class and answered some audience questions.

JJ Wilson, sophomore creative writing major, mentioned being the one who helped work on the cover. The art was created by their older brother, Robyn Wilson.

"He drew it, and I helped give what colors it should be, and what to add, and we bounced ideas off of each other for an hour, and then we designed it," Wilson said.

Submissions for the May 2027 issue opened in April, with a $2 submission fee. Students and employees currently at ULV are not eligible to submit.

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Chorale unites on stage and in song

Natalia Rodriguez
Staff Writer



Jasmine Lyn

Choral director Clarissa Shan introduces the songs the University of La Verne Chamber Singers are about to perform at the "United in Song" concert Saturday in Morgan Auditorium. "United in Song," the choral program's spring concert, featured performances by both the Chamber Singers and the ULV Chorale. Both groups took turns of stage throughout the night.

The University of La Verne's Chamber Singers and University Chorale performed "United in Song" Saturday in Morgan Auditorium.

The performance, which went for about an hour, showcased a series of traditional choral pieces alongside madrigal arrangements of contemporary songs.

Approximately 70 people were in attendance.

Clarissa Shan, the director of choral activities and vocal studies at ULV, mentioned wanting to create unity between music through time.

Both choirs took turns performing, starting with the Chamber Singers.

The three times they were on stage, they sang their pieces a cappella.

The Chorale, by contrast, was accompanied by pianist Song Mi Choi. During their performance of "All of Me" by Kyle Pederson, they were also accompanied by Victoria Romano, assistant professor of music, on violin.

"It is a bit more rewarding to go up there and perform because it is something I have actually chosen to do, practice, and work at, and put effort towards," Nyla Barzaga, junior psychology major and member of the Chorale, said. "So that's a really good feeling."

One highlight of the event was the Chamber Singers performing "Wannabe" by the Spice Girls as a madrigal arrangement. Angelina Alvarez, senior psychology major and one of the Chamber Singers, mentioned that it was her favorite piece to practice and perform.

Alvarez has been involved in choir since she was in third grade, and was happy to continue throughout her university years. Joining the choir at ULV helped her broaden her musical horizons outside of pop music.

Destiny Tenor, junior political science major and member of the Chamber Singers, said the same.

"I'm more of a musical theatre singer, or pop, so coming in and doing classical was. . . a little bit of a shock," Tenor said.

Nevertheless, both singers enjoyed performing at the event.

"It was very interesting because I already technically graduated," Alvarez said. "It's very different, but I'm excited that I got to sing it with my other seniors and that we get to go on this Germany trip together one last time before we all graduate."

During the event, Shan acknowledged and congratulated the graduating seniors from both choirs.

She announced their names, majors, the length of time they've been involved with either choir and their future plans post-undergraduate studies.

As each student came up, Chamber Singer Nathan Terrazas presented them with tokens to remember their time with the choir.

For the Chorale, she provided pins saying "choir," and for the Chamber Singers, she provided sashes. Shan stated this was a tradition she brought from the school she previously taught at.

"It's important to create a sense of community, because we, as a choir, we're kind of like one big family," Shan said.

The final piece performed was "Resilience" by Abbie Betinis.

Both the Chamber Singers and the Chorale sang this piece, with the Chamber Singers stepping off-stage to line up amongst the audience members.

Additionally, the audience was encouraged to stand and sing along to either the main melody, with the Chorale, or the harmony, with the Chamber Singers.

Lyrics were provided in the program.

"It doesn't matter if you're a last-semester senior or a freshman; now is the time to try things in college," Shan said.

Later this month, the Chamber Singers will be traveling to Germany for two weeks. They will be performing in a series of cathedrals and at the Peter and Paul Festival, a popular historical reenactment fair.

"It's really fun to experience that kind of culture and how diverse music can be, yet it's so universal at the same time," Alvarez said.

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



Jasmine Lyn

Members of the Chamber Singers perform at their "United in Song" concert Saturday in Morgan Auditorium.



Avila to receive award for service

Lila Gongora
Staff Writer

Anthony Avila, assistant athletic director for the University of La Verne, will receive the College Sports Communicators Bud Nangle award in June for donating part of his liver to his mother during the summer of 2025 while keeping up with his responsibilities for the ULV Athletics Department.

Recipients of the award represent the spirit of intercollegiate sports through exemplified ethics and consistency in their work during a trying time.

Owen W. "Bud" Nangle, was a patriarch of the award-winning Northern Illinois University Office of Sports Information. Nangle wrote the CoSIDA Code of Ethics in 1974, setting down moral expectations for those in the athletic communications field.

This award is presented annually to a member of the College Sports Communicators Organization, voted on by the CSC Special Awards Committee, and will be officially awarded to Avila at the CSC Unite 26 Convention from June 7-10 in Las Vegas, where his wife and parents will be in attendance.

"This is an opportunity to tell people about donation and how important it can be," Avila said. "Obviously, not everyone can donate an organ, but… they can donate time or money, whatever they're available to do – this shows how important it is to help other people."

Avila was nominated unknowingly for this award by his colleague, the sports information director at Chapman University, Steven Olveda, who had learned of Avila's story when the two were talking at a SCIAC volleyball tournament in December 2025.

"It's one of those things that you hear about, and don't necessarily know anybody that's ever done something of that nature." Olveda said. "There's no one I've met that was more deserving of this award than Anthony… and hopefully he feels the recognition personally and professionally."

Avila has played sports his whole life, including playing football in his first year of college and rugby for all four years at Occidental College. He went on to receive his master's degree from the University of La Verne in leadership and management.

After an injury in his sophomore year at Occidental, Avila committed himself to writing stories for Occidental's athletic website. He expressed a love for Division III sports as he got to work with all 18 of the sports teams at La Verne.

"I think Division III athletics is what college sports was meant to be, I think it keeps the athletics part pure; there's more to the athlete's interest than just sports," Avila said.

Sydney Ferris, a 2024 La Verne graduate now working as a sports information graduate assistant, has worked under Avila for a year and a half.

"Being Anthony's graduate assistant kind of fell into my lap, and he has been nothing but supportive and empowering of me in all ventures of sports information," Ferris said. "I could not have asked for a better mentor."

Avila began his work at Occidental College as a graduate assistant and took up a variety of jobs in the sports industry in between, eventually becoming the Assistant Athletic Director at La Verne in 2024.

At the end of 2024, something fundamentally changed in Avila's life – his mother was diagnosed with a type of liver cancer and needed a donor.

Avila had a feeling he was going to get selected to be the donor. And before he knew it, there was a two-month preparation for the surgery.

Following the initial procedures, both he and his mother required emergency follow-up surgeries.

Though he spent much of the summer of 2025 in bed recovering, Avila did not miss a beat in his work for the La Verne athletics program.

"He's not somebody to boast or brag about anything, and I feel like he was trying to protect his mom and make sure that she wanted to share before he said anything," said Analise Kusleika, another sports information graduate assistant, who started in August 2025.

As for Avila's mom, she is now cancer-free and looking forward to seeing her son receive the Bud Nangle Award.

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



Aaliyah Alamillo

Anthony Avila, assistant athletic director for communications and sports information, has received the Bud Nangle Award from College Sports Communicators. Avila was nominated for the award because he donated part of his liver last summer to help save his mother's life while still leading the La Verne athletics media department.

Leopards finish up at SCIAC Tourney

The baseball and softball teams both saw their seasons end last weekend in their respective Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference postseason tournaments.

For baseball, the Leopards got off to an impressive start with a 2-1 win over Chapman on May 6 and a 6-4 win over Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on May 7.

However, they lost a heartbreaker to Pomona-Pitzer, 6-5, on May 8, on an eighth inning homerun by Sagehen sophomore right fielder Kai Gonzaga.

This set up a Saturday rematch with Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, which the Leopards lost, 15-2.

Meanwhile, the softball team got swept out of the tournament with losses to Chapman on May 8, 6-1, and Whittier on Saturday, 9-7.

The baseball team ended in fifth place in SCIAC, with a 24-19-1 overall record and 14-10 in conference.

Both Nathan Perry, senior catcher, and Aidan Salcedo, senior second baseman, ended their ULV baseball careers with All-SCIAC selections. Perry was named to First Team and Salcedo to Second Team.

In softball, La Verne finished third in SCIAC with a 17-25 overall record and 11-10 in conference. The tournament appearance was the team's first since 2022.

—Olivia Russo

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzeo

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