Campus Times

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Talk explores international study

Cassidy Diaz
News Editor

The Office of International Services and Study Abroad hosted a presentation titled "The Pathway to Academia: Reflections from Former F-1 International Students" on Monday in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space.

The talk featured Giacomo Laffranchini and Si Hyun Kim, both professors of management in the College of Business.

The event was in honor of International Education Week.

They both gave their own presentations on their academic journeys as international students and the importance of international education by providing insight and advice to students.

Laffranchini has been teaching at the University since 2014 and received his doctorate in international business from the University of Texas at El Paso. He has spent his career researching entrepreneurship, family business, strategy and international management.

He has also studied in Italy, France, India and the United States.

"I don't consider my journey to be over, so I want to share with you a little bit of what brought me here so far," Laffranchini said. "What defines our journey is not so much the places where we have been, but rather what we carry with us in those journeys."

Laffranchini is from a small town in Northern Italy called Brescia. He went to University there and then went off to the University of Montpellier in France.

Being able to travel around Europe brought out his curiosity to see what is beyond those boundaries, and he went to complete his master's at the Indian Institute of Planning and Management in India for approximately eight months.

"I started developing some research questions on what was the relationship between an individual's ability to engage in entrepreneurship activities as a way of lifting themselves out of poverty," Laffranchini said.

Laffranchini explained that having a doctorate degree from any American university opens many doors to opportunities in different countries.

"Sometimes in life, you meet a remarkable person on your trajectory, and it completely changes the direction you thought you were going to take," Laffranchini said. "That happened when I was in the PhD program, I met my wife, and probably it was a matter of fate, so that's what it was meant to be."

Laffranchini and Kim met in the first year of their doctoral program.

Kim came to the U.S. to receive her doctorate at the University of Texas at El Paso in international business with a concentration in management.

"Korea appreciates graduate American education compared to what you think U.S. education is good," Kim said.

Before graduating from Seoul University, Kim was not sure what to do after. But she did have the curiosity as to why people work from a more research and in-depth understanding.

Her research focuses on organizational justice, business ethics, workplace diversity and international human resource management.

Kim wanted to pursue teaching as a professor rather than working in business as she had planned. She was also planning to move back to South Korea after she completed her education, but stayed to pursue career opportunities.

After visiting several universities, looking for somewhere

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Jose Enrico Lamano Asuncion

Si Hyun Kim, professor of management, speaks Monday at the Ludwick Center Sacred Space, sharing her presentation, "From F-1 to Academia." She discussed her journey from South Korea to the United States, sharing the challenges and obstacles she faced along the way as she navigated life in a new country and worked toward building her career in academia.

Research looks at Islam in Italy

Justyn Henriquez
Staff Writer

The University's Philosophy and Religious Studies Department hosted Socrates' Café on Nov. 12 at the Hanawalt House. The event discussed academic fieldwork, Islam and the role of food as a unifying force between cultures.

Approximately 40 people attended, including students and professors. Each seat was occupied, with additional attendees standing in the back. Coffee and pastries were available for attendees.

Lauren Crossland-Marr, assistant professor of anthropology, presented her research from 20 weeks of fieldwork examining the relationship between Muslim communities in Milan, Italy, and the Italian national identity.

Her research sprouted from the study of global food circulation, specifically the soybean, and evolved into a broader examination of cultural identity around the world.

The discussion emphasized the proper ethical approach when conducting immersive fieldwork but broadly examined how religious and cultural practice shape experiences within a community.

"As anthropologists we are trying to understand human experience, but we have to realize that we're working with humans and they are people who can give consent," Crossland-Marr said.

Crossland-Marr emphasized the importance of the first few weeks of fieldwork, explaining how mistakes become a part of the learning process as community members educate researchers on cultural expectations or traditions.

"So you're learning all the time and then, there's a lot of social grace," Crossland-Marr said. "Rules can be broken because they're human systems."

She also described attending Friday prayer, where she struggled to keep her head covering in place.

Despite preparing before, the experience showed how unfamiliar cultural traditions can make ordinary tasks difficult for researchers.

Alessandro Morosin, assistant professor of sociology and criminology, suggested that many different books could derive from her field of research and explained how it connects the question of religious identity to the question of national identity.

"One of them could be a story about what keeps religions together and another one is about what keeps nations together," Morosin said. "So I think her research is kind of doing both."

Morosin also discussed Italy's history as a relatively young unified country, explaining how

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On the Cover

Campus Activities Board members Justin Castañeda, junior criminology major, and Jazzmine Cruz, sophomore biology major, avoid stray arrows playing archery tag Tuesday evening in the Abraham Campus Center Ballrooms. The activity was part of the "Dawn of the Games" event hosted by CAB to celebrate the upcoming premiere of "The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping" Friday. / photo by Natalia Rodriguez

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Presentation explores Tongva history

Asha Longsworth
Staff Writer

In honor of Native and Indigenous Heritage Month, the Center for Multicultural Services hosted a storyteller presentation Tuesday in the Ludwick Center.

Kimberly Morales Johnson, a native Gabrielino American and University of La Verne alumna, was the storyteller for this month's presentation.

The Gabrielino are also known as the Tongva and are Indigenous to the Los Angeles Basin and Southern Channel Islands.

She serves as the current secretary for the Los Angeles County Native American Indian Commission, a community-elected commissioner.

"We were in the mindset that the mission was good … it was a historical Stockholm treatment," Johnson said. "If you went to California in fourth grade, you probably did a (mission) social studies project, but the mission system sold propaganda to us."

Johnson continued to describe that the missions were more than open floor plans, bougainvilleas and tile roofs.

They were places with well-documented histories of indentured servitude and coercive evangelism.

"The Spanish crown would pay (missionaries) for every baptism," Johnson said. "The truth is that the Catholic Church unfortunately has hidden a lot from our people."

After the year 1820, Mexico gained independence from Spain, and the government granted some indigenous Californians land. The policies pressured Native people to abandon their traditional customs and forced them to assimilate to Mexican culture and society.

"So my grandparents did that, and they had a land grant ... my family ran out of money to fight for the land grant in 1953, and today that land is known as Whittier Narrows Park," Johnson said. "Then California became a state in 1850."

Native Gabrielino had their culture, beliefs and land taken from them but they also suffered the loss of relatives.

According to the National Museum of the American Indian, animals are used to communicate the values and spiritual beliefs and are regarded as ancestral relatives.

"His name is Monarch, and he was captured somewhere around Altadena," Johnson said. "Monarch is the bear on the (California) flag … as we all sit here this evening, Monarch is taxidermied in the California Science Museum on display in a corner."

According to the National Park Service, P22, the Hollywood Cat, was a native mountain lion living on Tongva land who was euthanized on Dec. 17, 2022, after suffering health decline from a collision on the freeway.

Johnson worked alongside fellow tribe leaders and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to retrieve his remains from the San Diego Zoo Safari Park and give him his respects.



Isabella Huerta

Indigenous storyteller and University of La Verne alumna Kimberly Morales Johnson shared a story with Daniel Loera, director of multicultural affairs, and other audience members at the Tongva storytelling event Tuesday at the Ludwick Center Skybridge.

"Think of your sister, brother, mother (or) uncle … if that person passed away, would you want scientists to come and take tissue samples of that person," Johnson said. "We were contacted three days before Christmas and they said 'if you want your cat, come get it.'"

Today, P22 is buried in an undisclosed location in the Santa Monica Mountains.

"I never stood for injustice," Johnson said. "I'm a community person, and we need everybody … There's an African proverb that says if you want to go fast, you go alone and if you want to go far, you go together."

Johnson's daughter is also involved in tribal advocacy as an ethnobotanist and artist. Her father lives next door to her and researches their families' genealogy.

"I try to keep my community around me and we believe that indigenous people are all over the world, everybody's indigenous to somewhere … you had roots that started from somewhere." Johnson said.

'All my relations' is a well-known Indigenous phrase used to reflect kinship and oneness. Humanity and the interconnectedness of it is vital to native philosophy.

"We're all connected in some way," Layla Bell, senior biology

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Wellness event provides support for students

Camryn Muuss
Staff Writer

Senior capstone students hosted a "Take a Break, Build a Connection" wellness event Wednesday outside the Randall Lewis Center for Well-Being and Research.

The event encouraged students to relax, recharge and connect with fellow students through interactive activities, conversations and self-care.

Students could participate in crafts, write positive messages, explore a campus belonging map, look through donated clothes and enjoy free food and refreshments.

The event focused on reducing stress, building connections, supporting student well-being and strengthening the campus community.

The event was organized as part of the Sociology of Health and Well-Being senior capstone course, taught by sociology professor Julie Abighanem.

The course focuses on understanding mental health and well-being through sociological theories and examining how larger social forces influence individual experiences.

Abighanem said the activities were designed with specific learning objectives rather than simply bringing students together for an event.

"For each activity, there is an objective to accomplish based on the sociological theories on mental health and well-being," Abighanem said.

She explained that the course was being offered for the first time during the fall semester.

Because it was structured as an eight-week hybrid class, she developed the initial project ideas to help students have enough time to organize and carry out their activities.

Students were responsible for executing the projects and encouraging participation from the campus community.

Senior Alan De la Vega, a criminology major who also works as a police officer for the city of Los Angeles, said his project focused on giving students the opportunity to share their opinions and ideas with university administrators, public officials and the surrounding community.

De la Vega said mental health and creating supportive environments are important for students and the people around them.

"Being here, doing this activity, actually shares the thought of being heard, and that is very important for the people to be heard," De la Vega said.

Another student organizer, Hannah Olson, a criminology major, created several activities for the event.

Her table included a craft station, a take-what-you-need station with motivational messages and a campus belonging map.

The belonging map allowed students to identify places on campus where they felt most comfortable or connected.

The craft station allowed students to take a break and participate in a relaxing activity. Olson said the project was created to help students feel comfortable, understand belonging, and explore how wellness activities can bring people together.

"We are focusing on social wellness and health, and in a specifically sociological aspect of it," Olson said.

She explained that students discussed their activities as a group while each organizer was responsible for developing an individual project.

They also checked in with one another throughout the planning process to make sure everyone had the support they needed.

Students attending the event also recognized the importance of making mental health and personal well-being a priority.

Kymberlee Torres, a freshman kinesiology major, attended the event to explore the activities and reflect on her own wellness.

"I think making sure that your wellness is one of your top priorities is very important," Torres said.

Torres also said the opportunity to express wellness and reflect on gratitude was especially meaningful around the holiday season.

"It's very insightful," Torres said. "It's a great opportunity, and you should take advantage of that."

All of the different activities during "Take a Break, Build a Connection" provided students with the opportunity to step away from their daily routines, meet other students and recognize the importance of mental health, social connections and belonging within the La Verne community.

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Reptile store features scaly friends

Camryn Muuss
Staff Writer



Joseph Nocero

A bearded dragon looks up from its enclosure at the Amazon Reptile Center in Montclair. Bearded dragons are among the most popular pet reptile species because of their gentle personalities and easy upkeep.

From snakes to lizards to tortoises, the Amazon Reptile Center located at 8851 Central Ave. in Montclair has built its business around exotic animals.

This independently owned business has operated under the same ownership since 1999. Now in its 27th year, the store credits its longevity to consistency, animal welfare and the relationships it has developed with the local community.

"We are a retail-first establishment, but animal welfare is the number one priority," Fergus McGillibry, the store manager for seven years, said.

The store specializes in reptiles and amphibians, along with invertebrates and occasionally aquatic animals. In addition to selling animals, the business provides a pet boarding service and supplies for exotic pet owners.

McGillibry said consistency has been one of the biggest factors in keeping the business open for nearly three decades. He explained that reptile stores often change ownership or locations, making it difficult to establish lasting relationships with customers.

"Loyalty is the real thing going both ways here," McGillibry said.

He said some customers have been visiting the store since they were children and now return with their own children and grandchildren.

Owner Michael A. Enyeart has also remained a consistent presence throughout the business' history, becoming a familiar face among customers.

That sense of community is something employees say makes the store different from other businesses.

Lauren Fox, who has worked at Amazon Reptile Center for seven years, said her interest in insects, snakes and lizards initially attracted her to the job. She particularly enjoys working with tarantulas, beetles and other animals that people may find intimidating.

Fox said employees are encouraged to ask questions and learn from one another while helping customers better understand exotic animals.

"We're always in the business of trying to help people learn and grow," Fox said.

Yasmin O'Connor, who has worked at the store for nearly three months, said her passion for animals motivated her to apply after a friend shared the store's hiring announcement on Instagram.

O'Connor said she has previously visited another reptile shop but became interested in working at the Reptile Center after learning about the opportunity.

"He is a really good owner," O'Connor said about Enyeart, adding that his management and knowledge has contributed to the store's overall success.

The business also uses online platforms to reach customers beyond its physical location. Amazon Reptile Center maintains an Instagram presence and sells animals through MorphMarket, an online marketplace for reptile breeders and sellers.

McGillibry said certain animals, particularly pythons, are in high demand, sometimes resulting in a wait list for customers while some animals have remained at the store for five or six years. One large python, for example, is kept for breeding rather than being available for purchase.

The store's approach to selling animals also reflects its emphasis on animal welfare. Employees will not sell an animal if they do not believe it is ready for a new home. For customers, the store's cleanliness and care for its animals are important reasons to return.

Michael Caballero, a customer who has visited the store multiple times, said the environment was one of the first things that stood out to him.

"It's really clean," Caballero said, "You go to a lot of reptile stores, and they're not as clean anymore."

Caballero said he has purchased food, supplements and enclosure supplies for his lizard at the store.

The Amazon Reptile Center can be found at their physical store location in Montclair, on Instagram **@amazonreptile** or on their online market at **morphmarket.com**.

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'Hunger Games' inspires activity

Mahyaldah Wayson
Staff Writer

The University of La Verne's Campus Activities Board brought "The Hunger Games" series to life Tuesday in the Campus Center Ballrooms.

Approximately 100 students and faculty members attended the event that took place ahead of the upcoming release of "The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping." This is the newest movie in the film franchise, scheduled to arrive in theaters Friday.

The event, hosted by CAB members Justin Castañeda and Kevlyn Martinez, provided attendees with a variety of activities and food to enjoy.

When students first entered the event, they were given the option to participate in a raffle with prizes such as a Hunger Games themed tote bag or two tickets to see the film in theaters.

Hunger Games themed stickers and pins were given out to students who did not win the raffle, ensuring that everyone left with something special.

Food options consisted of sliders, cheesy potato balls, pastries, ceviche and many more small bites that were provided by DD's Ice Cream from Riverside. Organizers allowed students to return for second and third servings at the appetizer bar, giving students multiple opportunities to enjoy the food.

The event included an inflatable archery activity which allowed students to experience Hunger Games inspired hands-on experiences.

"Since I'm the film chair,

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Students step it up for service day



Anisa Salazar

Freshman philosophy and theater arts major Sam Haskell, freshman business administration major Amber Santos and freshman psychology major Dean Johnsey organize bread to be distributed in the Office of Civic and Community Engagement's Thanksgiving Day of Service on Wednesday at Charisma Church for Life in Pomona. Cars lined up to receive food in the drive-thru food distribution, hosted by Sowing Seeds for Life.

HAPPENINGS

'She Kills Monsters'

The department of theatre arts is performing "She Kills Monsters" written by Qui Nguyen and directed by assistant professor of theatre arts Hannah Gaff. The show, which opened on Nov. 12, runs through this weekend with performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the Jane Dibbell Cabaret Theatre.

For more information, visit **commerce.cashnet.com/TheaterArts.**

Fall Concert

The La Verne Symphony Orchestra will host its fall concert from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday in Morgan Auditorium. The event will be themed "Americana" and showcase classic music from across the United States, celebrating America's 250th anniversary. Admission is free.

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

Dia de los Muertos

The Ontario Museum of History and Art is showing an exhibit honoring Dia de los Muertos, featuring ofrendas crafted by the museum and community members. The museum is open Thursday and Friday from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit runs until Sunday.

For more information, visit **ontariomuseum.org/museum/exhibitions/dia-de-los-muertos-exhibition.**

Wheel Throwing

The American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona will have a beginning pottery session at the museum at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 11. The fee covers clay, staff, glazing and firing for a completed bowl, as well as complimentary museum gallery admission.

Advance registration is required.

For more information, visit **amoca.org/studio1/classes.**

—Kalayah Frazier

Band showcases
Mariachi music

by Emma Yogan

photography by Donya Rouzbehi



Mariachi Ángeles de Pepe Martínez Jr. is a Los Angeles-based mariachi group founded in 2018 by musician Pepe Martínez Jr. With more than 30 years of experience, including 23 years performing alongside his father in the renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, Martínez brings decades of musical experience to the ensemble, which performed traditional Mexican music Sunday in Morgan Auditorium.

Mariachi Angeles de Pepe Martinez Jr. performed in the Ann and Steve Morgan Auditorium on Sunday, introducing mariachi music to the University of La Verne.

Before the performance began, the band was introduced by music professor Victoria Romano.

She also announced that a student-run mariachi club will be starting soon at the University.

Mariachi Angeles de Pepe Martinez Jr. was founded in 2018 in Los Angeles and is renowned for its strong vocalists and outstanding string arrangements.

> 'As a first-generation Mexican-American, it's always important to remember where you're from and where you're going.'
> *—Louis Galicia, mariachi musician*

This event offered the community and the University the opportunity to experience authentic traditional Mexican music.

Mariachi Angeles travels to large stages across Southern California to perform their music.

As a previous member of the world-renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan for 25 years, Pepe Martinez Jr. has spent his life playing mariachi music.

With a strong background in traditional mariachi, Martinez Jr. is a composer, director and violinist, all while being the leader of his band.

Martinez Jr. comes from a legacy of mariachi musicians. Martinez's grandfather played mariachi as well as his dad, who was the director of Mariachi Vargas for 45 years.

Martinez's children have also begun following the path of mariachi music.

"Mariachi has always been my life," Martínez said.

Louis Galicia, a guitarist and vocalist has been with the group for 10 years but has been playing mariachi for almost 30 years.

Martinez Jr. invited Galicia to audition for the group around the year 2000.

Galicia said mariachi music requires a lot of studying and analyzing music in order to make it your own and instead of just playing notes.

"As a first-generation Mexican-American, it's always important to remember where you're from and where you're going," Galicia said.

"It's important so you can stay in touch with your roots."

The band performed a variety of traditional Mexican mariachi music featuring sones, romantic rancheras and huapangos.

The setlist included songs such as "Popurrí de Sones," "El Querreque" and "Sabes Una Cosa."

Xocoyotzin Herrera, a harp player for the group, has been playing the instrument since he was 8 years old.

Herrera said he knew Martinez Jr. going back many years and has been playing with this specific group for about three years.

"I hope people see the artistry behind it, and every section of the group and the complexity of not just the types of instruments, but the rhythms and melodies that come together," Herrera said.

For student and audience member Nicholas Rodriguez, senior sociology major, this event provided him the opportunity to connect with his culture.

"My grandparents are from Mexico and it's nice to see my culture too," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez also pointed out how he would like to see more cultural events such as this one on campus.

"I personally like learning about other people's culture, so I think it's a good thing if it were more diverse," Rodriguez said. "The most unique thing about mariachi music is the cultural impact and the lyrics."

For more information, visit Mariachi Angeles de Pepe Martinez Jr. on Instagram @mariachi.angeles.

*Emma Yogan can be reached at **emma.yogan@laverne.edu.***

Alpenglow show plays with shapes

Kalayah Frazier
Assistant Editor



Kalayah Frazier

Visitors Emily Lebgrahms, Gracelyn Hernandez and Alyssa Hernandez stand in front of artist Alex Couwenberg's painting "Soax" at his "Alpenglow" exhibition Saturday at the Ginger Elliot Gallery at the Garner House in Claremont.

The Garner House in Claremont kicked off the "Alpenglow" exhibition with a reception Saturday Ginger Elliott Gallery in the Garner House in Memorial Park in Claremont.

Approximately 50 people gathered to view the paintings of Artist Alex Couwenberg, whose large multilayered paintings feature geometric shapes and earth tones.

Couwenberg, who was on hand at the reception, talked about his process of regional travel, photographing landscapes and creating the large abstract works based on the landscapes he encounters.

"The journey I go through when I make the paintings, that's what keeps it exciting for me," Couwenberg said. "It's just based on my interest and my curiosity about making paintings," Couwenberg said.

One of the works that was displayed was titled "Moai."

Couwenberg explained that the piece reflects a modern aesthetic because of its focal point—a dark orange center resembling an everyday wooden coffee or dining table which stands out against the blue background. Its palette of light blue, dark orange, white, yellow and turquoise also ties directly to a piece from Couwenberg's 2023 collection.

Another piece called "Nova" featured many shades of blue: a deep blue center with lighter blue hectagons.

"Coming here today, I was really inspired because (Couwenberg) was one of my art professors," said Tyler Morgan, one of Couwenberg's former students at Azusa Pacific and an abstract artist. "His artwork has also opened my eyes and inspired me."

"Alpenglow" runs through Jan. 6.

For more information visit **williamturnergallery.com/news/tag/Alex+Couwenberg+Alpenglow**.

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AMOCA celebrates reopening and expansion

Kenya Carrillo
Staff Writer

The American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona welcomed visitors Sunday for a reopening celebration. The event gave people a chance to explore the museum, enjoy the new art exhibitions and take part in activities.

Visitors explored exhibition halls, enjoyed food and drinks and listened to a live band.

The museum, which never closed but recently expanded, has community spaces for visitors to use, including a kids makers space and a reading lounge.

Pomona resident Christian Juarez, who had been to the museum for field trips when he was younger, was among the guests Sunday.

"This is a place where we can all admire art together," Juarez said. "I will come again after this visit."

Another attendee, Ayden Ortega from Chino Hills, said he enjoyed seeing families spending time together at the event.

Genevieve Kaplan, the museum's communications and membership manager, said the celebration was exciting because visitors could finally experience the new spaces.

"I'm really excited to have these new spaces," Kaplan said. "We can do some programming alongside the exhibitions."

Besides the kids' maker space and reading lounge, new spaces include an activity space, where visitors can build their own art collections.

Kaplan said the expansion project took more than five years to complete. Museum staff worked on parts of the building, but outside contractors and an architectural firm helped design and build the new areas.

She said she hopes visitors attending for the first time enjoy the museum and decide to return.

"For the kids, it's going to be more of our activities," said Pam Aliaga, the museum exhibition manager. "Kids get to actually make their own … pinch pots (and) clay critters."

The Sunday event also offered tours of the museum's current collections including a Japanese ceramic exhibition, a German ceramic collection and an exhibition about 150 years of American history.

"Now we have a space where people can come relax and get to see the collection," Aliaga said.

For more information about the AMOCA visit **amoca.org** or call 909-865-3146.

*Kenya Carrillo can be reached at **kenya.carrillo@laverne.edu.***

Activity...

Continued from page 4

I started looking at upcoming movie releases and thought 'The Hunger Games' would be a great opportunity, especially with the new movie coming out," Castañeda said. "We decided to put the event together during the week of its release."

The archery themed room was dimly lit with glowing LED lights. The Campus Center Ballroom was completely transformed, giving students a first-hand glimpse at the Hunger Games world.

"What drew me to the event was the pin on the table," Sannai Fitts, junior criminology major, said. "I saw the little Mockingjay pins, and that's low-key the reason I started watching 'The Hunger Games' in the first place."

CAB Board members talked about their idea for the event.

"Just like Justin said, our chairs are kind of a collective—mine being the engagement chair—so I thought this was a great opportunity to collaborate and create an interactive Hunger Games themed event with archery tag as a big Hunger Games fan," Martinez said.

"I think it's a really fun way to interact with fellow students, and it makes campus life more exciting and gives students another opportunity to get involved," Katelynn Fermin, junior criminology major, said.

*Mahyaldah Wayson can be reached at **mahyaldah.wayson@laverne.edu**.*

Tongva...

Continued from page 3

major, said. "We have the same instincts, drive and we should accept and love each other because we are the same."

Bell felt personally connected to this concept because of her own heritage.

"I feel really personal about this because I appear to be just white," Bell said. "I'm actually half Tunisian and Guatemalan … I still have strong roots in America, but I have both sides of the story."

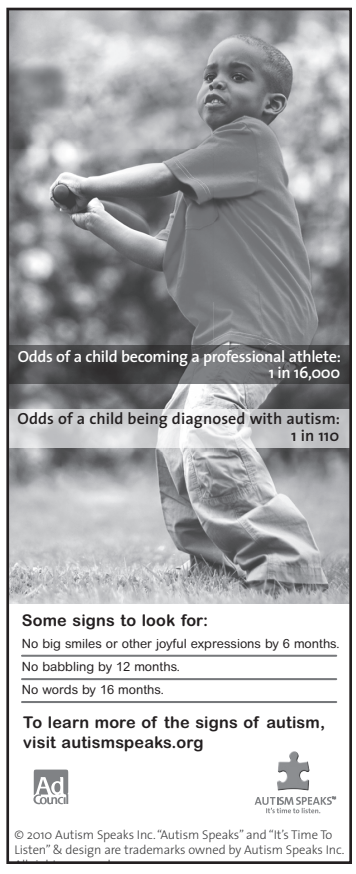
"Other people come from their lands, and it's not easy to do that," Maritza Martinez, senior biology major, said. "Today, a lot of people view it as bad."

Johnson has done four presentations in the past five days in honor of Native and Indigenous Heritage Month. She often draws parallels between the genocide and persecution of native Americans to modern-day immigration issues in her presentations.

"I make the comparison to people living in fear based on looks alone is something we're undergoing today," Johnson said.

"I'm Mexican," Andrea Torres, senior biology major, said. "I'm a part of Latino Student Forum, and we worked with ICE Out of Pomona … you have to learn about your culture, people and community to see the issues."

*Asha Longsworth can be reached at **asha.longsworth@laverne.edu.***



Leopards sink Panthers in final game

Miguel Navarro
Staff Writer

In a decisive matchup in the final game of the regular season, the La Verne Leopards defeated the Chapman Panthers, 12-10, Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center.

The win secured the Leopards the fifth and final playoff spot for the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament, their first postseason appearance since 2016.

"I am feeling a lot of emotions, but I'm just proud of the guys," head coach Robert Echeverria said.

The Leopards closed the year on a three-game winning streak to keep their season alive.

Despite losing their first matchup of the season against the Panthers, the Leopards made adjustments and remained confident.

"We're communicating, and they just played together… we've been demonstrating that we can compete with the best," Echeverria said.

Before a crowd of over 100 people, play opened with both sides trading goals back and forth.

The Leopards jumped out to a quick start, scoring two goals to start the game.

The Panthers wasted no time responding and scored three unanswered goals to recapture the lead.

There were seven more lead changes between the two sides.

La Verne entered the second half tied 6-6, with zero separation in stats.

The Leopards turned the momentum up in the third quarter, outscoring the Panthers, 5-2.

This stretch of play helped secure the largest lead of the game for the Leopards.

The Leopards entered the fourth quarter with an 11-8 lead.

A standout player in this second half was senior attacker Nicolo Buono, who led the Leopards with five goals in the game.

"It's been four years here and we haven't won a game against Chapman, and it just channeled a little extra out of me," Buono said.

A key adjustment the Leopards made to slow down the Panther attack was to improve their defense. They won the turnover battle with nine steals in the game.

Senior utility Timothy Robles secured two steals and made key defensive plays for ULV.

"I told the team before we played that defense wins games, these last four games of the season we've been really focused on defense," Robles said.

The Leopards carried this defensive momentum as they began to drop their players back to run the clock down.

Frustration built for Chapman as they looked to make adjustments to their lineup, with over 20 players appearing in the game for the Panthers.

A late rally from the Panthers cut the Leopards' lead to two, but their late comeback effort fell short with the 12-10 final.

"I think this team wanted nothing more than to make a tournament… this was our championship game," senior attacker Jordan Baker said.

Baker closed his senior season off leading the team in goals with 63. This was an accomplishment that he did not take lightly.

"Last year was pretty disappointing on a lot of levels, and it really pushed me to get to work individually," Baker said.

Hopes for the Leopards remained high despite coming on the road.

"We're going to pull off an upset at Cal Lu because we are playing with a lot of confidence and they're playing like a family," Echeverria said.

However, they lost the hard-fought game, 13-12, against the Kingsmen in the first round of the SCIAC Tournament on Tuesday at the Samuelson Aquatic Center.

Both teams rallied back and forth with high intensity, fighting to advance to the next round.

Junior utility Josh Lamberton took the lead in the first quarter with three goals in the first quarter and one in the second.

Halftime ended with La Verne in the lead, 7-6.

The Kingsmen turned up the offensive pressure even more in the third quarter, outscoring the Leopards, 4-1.

In the fourth quarter, La Verne gave everything they had and put up more goals than Cal Lutheran, outsourcing them 4-3, but it wasn't enough to take the win. The Leopards ended their season 12-13 overall and 5-7 in SCIAC.

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Football dominates in last game of season against Poets

The Leopards football team finished off their 2026 season with a dominant win, 35-0, against the Whittier Poets on Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium.

La Verne quickly showed promise in the first quarter, gaining 48 yards on their first drive, while Whittier was only able to gain 21 yards during their first drive.

The Leopards gained 74 yards during the last drive of the quarter that resulted in a touchdown scored by senior quarterback Jordan Hernandez at the 13:41 mark.

Senior running back Tyler McCown scored an eight-yard touchdown with 4:50 remaining in the second quarter, and a successful kick from junior kicker Logan Fritz rounded off the score,14-0.

Fritz successfully converted all three of his extra-point attempts, along with junior kicker Jacob Cuevas, who contributed two extra points during the game.

La Verne's defense shined throughout the game as they capitalized on Whittier's offensive mistakes and consistently applied pressure to their opponent. Whittier freshman quarterback Kayden Morales threw a pass that was intercepted by La Verne senior safety Justin Mondini.

The second quarter ended with a score of 14-0 in favor of the Leopards.

Whittier struggled to move the ball upfield. Their possession of the ball in the third quarter came to an end when freshman linebacker Salvatore Felice and senior linebacker Brak Hill successfully stopped freshman running back Jason De La Cruz for no gain.

The third quarter ended with a score of 21-0, accredited to Hernandez's seven-yard touchdown pass to senior wide receiver Noah Allen.

Senior quarterback Brian Rudden came into the game early in the fourth quarter and threw an eight-yard pass to McCown for his last career touchdown at the 12:48 mark.

Shortly after, Whittier freshman wide receiver William Summers stepped in as quarterback and threw an interception to La Verne sophomore safety Roger Price III, who returned it for 32 yards. Price also recorded 11 tackles, followed by senior linebacker Dylan Reiner, who had nine tackles.

Senior wide receiver Ronald Ropke ended his season on a high note, scoring his first touchdown of the season and the last touchdown for La Verne.

Additionally, Ropke recorded two catches for 51 yards, trailing senior wide receiver Jimmy Rumsey's lead of three receptions for 58 yards.

Senior linebacker Devin Martin and senior running back Daniel Franklin were assets when rushing the ball.

The La Verne Leopards finished the season 4-6 overall and 2-6 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

—Lila Gongora

Volleyball falls to Athenas in final

The La Verne Leopards fell just short of winning the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship game on Saturday against the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Athenas at Roberts Pavilion in Claremont.

In the final match of the tournament, the Leopards fought hard until the end, but ultimately ended their season after losing, 3-1.

The Leopards started strong, maintaining a lead for a majority of the first set.

Sophomore libero Morgan Watkins had a six-point serving run to put a gap in the score, 7-5. Watkins led the team in digs with 22.

With back-and-forth rallies, the Athenas were able to pull ahead, 13-11, but this did not last long as the Leopards pulled through and took the first set, 25-22.

The second set had large pockets of hope for both teams. La Verne had the initial upper hand offensively, 5-2.

The Athenas flipped the switch and took hold of the lead, 10-5, and then widened the gap even more, 17-9, before the Leopards could score another point. Ultimately, the Athenas closed out the set, 25-20.

Set three was the closest of them all. The largest deficit was 14-10, with the Athenas in the lead. Senior middle blocker Zacky Coaston led the team in kills, with 11 total. Four of them were in the third set.

Fighting to stay in it, freshman outside hitter Allison Mason tied up the score, 24-all, assisted by senior setter Malia Capistrano. Capistrano had 21 assists in the game.

The Athenas took the third set, 26-24.

The fourth and final set was when the Athenas pulled ahead, and it was difficult for the Leopards to close the gap. The Athenas closed it out, 25-20, and ultimately won the game.

Despite the loss, La Verne's defense was strong. They had more blocks than their competitors, 30-16, and 21 errors compared to the Athenas' 27 errors.

The La Verne volleyball team ended their season with a record of 15-11 overall and 8-6 in SCIAC.

—Anisa Salazar

Islam...

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regional identities still proceed beyond the broader Italian unification in the 1860s.

Dan Campana, professor of philosophy and religion, spoke on the importance of student participation in the semi-annual event, Socrates' Café.

"It gives students an insight into not only the passion that faculty members have, but also kind of models what it's like to be active in a scholarly world," Campana said.

Dane Sawyer, instructor of philosophy and religious studies, explained how the event topic is decided upon and the influence from the student body.

"We are opening up Socrates' Café to these other disciplines in order to share faculty research and ideas in an open-dialogue format that allows deep intellectual investigation and discussion with students and faculty," Sawyer said.

The next Socrates' Café will be held in spring 2027.

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Study...

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to settle, the University of La Verne environment just felt right for Kim and Laffranchini.

"I had a feeling that it's a place where people don't just treat each other as colleagues, but more of a family feeling," Laffranchini said.

"A place in which people do genuinely care about what others are doing and how we collaboratively can improve as an institution."

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Leopards drown out Pirates for win

Justin Ries
Staff Writer



Jose Enrico Lamano Asuncion

Senior guard Jossy Calizo calls out to her teammates during Tuesday's game against Whitworth in the Athletics Pavilion. She led the team with seven rebounds in the Leopards' win over the Pirates. The Leopards won 67-62 against the Pirates.

The Leopards faced off against the Whitworth Pirates and won, 67-62, Tuesday in the Athletics Pavilion.

"I love our resilience. Not the first quarter we wanted, but showing the resilience is going to pay off later on in the season," head coach Anthony Mason said.

The Leopards came back in this game after a rough first quarter where at one time they trailed by as many as 10 points.

This was due to shooting only 5-of-18 from the field and 1-of-8 from the three.

The bright spot for the Leopards in the first quarter was shooting 75% from the free throw line.

This is not normal for this La Verne team as they know they are a good shooting team and needed to watch shots go down to get going on offense.

"We know we are a good shooting team, so there is no reason for us to get in our heads and become hesitant when it comes to shooting the ball," senior guard Jossy Calizo said.

The Leopards' comeback began at the start of the second quarter with a three-pointer from graduate student guard Te' Limon.

"I think we really fought back and executed well," senior forward Alyssa Smith said.

Junior guard Jasmine Prajitno got fouled while shooting a three-pointer that sent her to the free throw line where she made all three, cutting the Whitworth lead to four.

Whitworth responded with a fast break layup to make the score 26-20.

La Verne's Limon got an offensive rebound and put it back up to bring the lead back down to four, 26-22.

"I think really just following our offensive principles and getting some more action downhill to create open spaces for the shot," senior guard Isabella Gray-Musolff said.

Whitworth and the Leopards traded baskets, keeping the Whitworth lead at four.

Whitworth then went on a 6-0 run to take a 10 point lead. That run by the Pirates was stopped by layups from sophomore forward Zaria Gomez and Calizo, cutting the lead back down to six.

Whitworth's lead was 11 when Leopards junior guard Alyssa Lopez hit a three-pointer, cutting the lead to eight at halftime, 40-32.

Whitworth scored the first points of the second half, which was followed by back-to-back three-pointers by La Verne freshman forward Rylee Cabuyadao-Caswell to cut the lead to four.

La Verne started their high press defense which led to turnovers that were converted into points. One came from Prajitno off a fast break layup that brought Whitworth's lead down to two.

Prajitno got another fast break layup assisted by Gray-Musolff that tied up the game.

La Verne took their first lead since the first quarter, 45-44, off a three-pointer from Smith, who returned to the game after leaving earlier following a hard contact to the face.

Whitworth retook the lead with a layup and three-pointer to jump back up to a four point lead.

Both teams traded baskets to end the quarter. Whitworth went into the fourth quarter with a four point lead, 52-48.

La Verne came out firing in the fourth with a three-pointer from Smith and two free throws from junior guard Giovanna Espinoza to retake the lead, 53-52.

Both teams went back-and-forth trading the lead and both teams battling back from the deficits. With 4:54 remaining in the quarter the Leopards took the lead, 59-58, off a layup from Cabuyadao-Caswell and never looked back.

Two free throws from Gray-Musolff sealed the deal with 20 seconds remaining for a Leopards victory, 67-62.

The Leopards are 2-1 to start the season and 0-0 in conference play.

The Leopards played Westcliff on Thursday at Golden West College. Results were not available at press time.

They will face Lewis and Clark at noon Sunday at Cal Lutheran, then return home to open Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play against Pomona-Pitzer at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 in the Athletics Pavilion.

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LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Men's Swimming and Diving, Nov. 14
La Verne – 89
Pomona-Pitzer – 167

La Verne – 54
Caltech – 210

Women's Swimming and Diving, Nov. 14
La Verne – 93.5
Pomona-Pitzer – 166.5

La Verne – 79
Caltech – 176

Football, Nov. 14
Whittier – 0
La Verne – 35

Men's Soccer, Nov. 14
La Verne – 1
Trinity – 3

SCHEDULE

Saturday
Men's and women's swimming and diving @ Occidental, 9 a.m./10:30 a.m.
Men's basketball vs. Linfield, 6 p.m.

Sunday
Men's and women's swimming and diving @ Occidental, 9 a.m./10:30 a.m.
Women's basketball @ Lewis & Clark, Thousand Oaks, 12 p.m.
Men's basketball vs. Whitman, 1 p.m.

Tuesday
Men's basketball vs. Pacific, 6 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

	SCIAC	Overall
Chapman	0-0	2-0
Redlands	0-0	1-0
Whittier	0-0	3-0
La Verne	**0-0**	**2-1**
Caltech	0-0	1-1
Occidental	0-0	1-1
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps	0-0	1-3
Pomona-Pitzer	0-0	1-3
Azusa Pacific	0-0	0-0
Cal Lutheran	0-0	0-2