

## President to Welcome Community Leaders at May 20th Reception

LPC is hosting a President's Welcome Reception for business, industry, and educational leaders from the Tri-Valley area from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20th, in the South Courtyard of the Student Services and Administration Building (Building 1600).

President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D., invites the campus community to join him in providing a warm welcome to our community leaders. "It is my hope to reach out to these community leaders and make them an active part of our campus," he said.

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees meeting will follow the reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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## Gala Raises \$125,000 for LPC



Jared Howard

Guests enjoy the *Best of the Best* 2014.

Guests enjoyed great company, dined on delicious food, sipped fine wines from the Livermore Valley, and applauded outstanding student performances—all while raising \$125,000, a record amount, for LPC's 11th Annual *Best of the Best* Gala, held at the college on April 26th. LPC President

Barry A. Russell, Ph.D., welcomed guests and was a surprise piano accompanist in the performance showcase, expertly directed by Theater Instructor Titian Lish and hosted by entertainer extraordinaire Faith Alpher.

LPC extends sincerest appreciation to our many generous sponsors for the event and online and silent auctions, and to everyone who made the fundraiser a celebration to remember. Thanks to the LPC Foundation, which organized the event, and to Foundation CEO Ted Kaye, Ph.D., and the Foundation Board Members for their dedication in supporting LPC—the Tri-Valley's community college.

## Stanford Honors LPC Alum and Instructor

When LPC alumnus Ethan Aines learned he had won the prestigious Sterling Award for academic achievement as one of the top 25 graduates in his Stanford University class, he was asked to invite and pay tribute to an influential teacher at the May 3rd awards luncheon. He chose LPC Anthropology Instructor Lauren Hasten.

"It's a shame I could invite only one professor to the awards ceremony, because I am so deeply indebted to many other amazing professors at LPC who gave me their time and a chance to prove myself," said Mr. Aines, who graduated from LPC with a full scholarship to Stanford.

Courtesy of Ethan Aines



LPC alum Ethan Aines (left) and Instructor Lauren Hasten accept Stanford University Sterling Awards.

foundation in understanding how coursework at a four-year university works.

"When I showed up to Stanford and was assigned 20-page term papers, or asked to do large, multi-component group projects, I hit the ground running because I already had learned how through my six honors projects at Las Positas," he said.

"In the end, I can't praise the community college system, and Las Positas in particular, highly enough," Mr. Aines said. "With limited resources and limited time, you all have made a huge difference in many, many people's lives, and I really appreciate it... You were all there to give me ... the right level of engagement when I needed it."

While at LPC, Mr. Aines was enrolled in the college's Honors Transfer Program. "I credit my success at Las Positas and beyond with the availability of the Honors Transfer Program," he said. "Not only did the work allow me to creatively explore a broader intellectual space, but it gave me a solid

Mr. Aines, who hails from Livermore, will continue his education this fall at the University of Cambridge in England with a Cambridge Trust Scholarship. At Cambridge, he plans to pursue a master of philosophy degree and a doctorate to prepare him for a career in archaeology.

# Talk Hawks Soar to 4th Place in the Nation

Courtesy of Talk Hawks



LPC's forensics team, the Talk Hawks, ends its award-winning season on a high note by defeating many other community college teams in the country to capture fourth place—the speech team's best national finish in five years.

From left: Joshua Thompson, Jessica Sturla, Janet Brehe Johnson (Coach), Jim Dobson (Director), Katie Lai, Erica Efigenio, and Salim Razawi (Coach).

## Student Pitches Hook Judges at LPC “Shark Tank” Competition

Three students reeled in awards at LPC's second “Shark Tank,” an entrepreneurship competition in the style of the popular ABC TV show of the same name. The event, which was open to all students in all majors, was held May 6th.

Dayllan Maar won the Most Likely to Succeed award and the team of Taylor Peissner and Anish Desai won Most Innovative. Eight student teams competed by pitching their ideas for new businesses to a panel of judges composed of the following area business leaders: Bobi White, marketing consultant, writer, publisher and editor; Troy Witt, Team Leader of Strategic Customer Supply Chain and Global Customer Policy Management at The Clorox Company; and Alay Yajnik, business coach, Silicon Valley startup veteran, and former healthcare executive.

Thanks to our judges and to the Business and Marketing Department faculty who organized the event: Mark Grooms and “Head Shark” Tom Blinn.



Mary Lauffer

Students Anish Desai (left) and Taylor Peissner present their award-winning pitch to judges.

## LPC Students Win Nine Journalism Awards

LPC students brought home nine journalism awards at the Annual Journalism Association of Community Colleges Convention in Burbank in April. The magazine, *Naked 8*, won highest honors, earning General Excellence for the fourth consecutive time. LPC students gain practical journalism experience through the student magazine, student newspaper *Express*, and Radio Las Positas.

Congratulations to the students and to their Media Advisers, Mass Communications Instructors Melissa Korber and Marcus Thompson.

## Faculty and Staff Recognized with Awards

**Chemistry.** Chemistry Instructor Mike Ansell, Ph.D., received the 2013 Outstanding Community College Faculty/Scholar Award from the California Sector of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Ansell has been a faculty member since 2002. He was honored at the American Chemical Society awards luncheon on May 10th.

**Public Relations.** Business and Marketing Instructor and *Las Positas Connection* Editor Mary Lauffer won first- and second-place awards for feature writing and photography, respectively, from the statewide Community College Public Relations Organization at its April 9th to 11th conference. Ms. Lauffer also has won professional awards in areas including public relations, advertising, publicity campaign, media success story, news release, and media relations.

**Chancellor Awards.** Three members of the LPC community were honored at an April 25th luncheon with this year's Chancellor Awards for their outstanding service to the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. The winners, who are nominated by their colleagues, are Speech Instructor Tim Heisler, Counselor/Instructor Christina Lee, and Veterans First Coordinator Todd Steffan.



# LPC Honors Retiring Director of Student Life

Alaina Schofield took time from her busy schedule as a University of California at Berkeley student to attend a farewell party for LPC's Director of Student Life Cynthia Ross, who will retire at the end of the semester. Ms. Schofield would not have missed honoring a person who helped change the trajectory of her life forever.

It was Ms. Ross who first encouraged Ms. Schofield, who graduated from LPC last year, to apply for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. And it was Ms. Ross who called to tell her she won, making her one of only 73 scholars nationwide to receive the award, which covers most all of her expenses and enables her to attend the college of her dreams. Helping students make their dreams come true is a big part

Olga Salgado



Students and alumni surround Cynthia Ross at a retirement party. Ms. Ross is middle row, eighth from left; alumna and U.C. Berkeley student Alaina Schofield is middle row, third from left.

of Cynthia Ross's legacy in her 17-year tenure at LPC. She has touched the lives of countless LPC students and introduced them to life-changing opportunities. In addition to her position in student life, Ms.

Ross also has served as a Psychology Instructor. The LPC community honored Ms. Ross in a retirement celebration on April 29th and at the May 7th Town Meeting.

## Activities Support Sustainability, Health, Wellness

### Cyclists Pump Pedals for LPC Campus Commute

A group of LPC employees and students ditched their cars and employed pedal power to reach campus for the Bay Area's Bike to Work/School Day on May 8th. For the third consecutive year, LPC hosted an Energizer Station that rewarded bicyclists with drinks, snacks, t-shirts, and gift bags. A small, but enthusiastic group of cyclists met at the Livermorium Plaza in downtown Livermore to ride to LPC.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Livermore Cyclery, Bike East Bay, and LPC's Student Health and Wellness Center, the President's Office, IT, and M & O. Kudos to LPC volunteers Chemistry Instructor Mike Ansell, Ph.D., and student Maggie Alvarez for organizing the event.

### Horticulture Club Holds Water-Wise Workshop

LPC's club Horticulturalists of Today and Tomorrow presented a free, public workshop on April 30th focusing on drought-tolerant landscaping, native gardening, and water conservation tips. The club also held its Annual Spring

Plant Sale on May 7th, just in time for Mother's Day.

### Strategies Support Success for Student Veterans

LPC provided faculty with a free workshop on April 29th, focusing on successful strategies that support student veterans in the classroom. The presenter was David Joseph, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist and Team Leader of the Oakland Vet Center.

### Health and Wellness Center Empowers Students

The slogan for LPC's Student Health and Wellness Center is: to prevent when possible, to treat when needed, to empower always. During April and May, the center offered a number of services that reflect its slogan.

**Mental Health Workshop.** LPC brought in a leading psychologist to conduct a four-hour workshop focusing on prevention and early intervention strategies which address the mental health needs of students and advance the collaboration of our campus community.

Courtesy of Mike Ansell



In celebration of Bike to Work/School Day, LPC's Welding Department created this bike sculpture to greet cyclists at the top of Campus Hill Drive.

**Annual Sexual Assault Awareness Day.** This event provided resources and education to students, and also featured a bake sale benefitting Tri-Valley Haven.

**Annual Road Trip to a Safe Summer Break.** The center presented this interactive event to empower students with knowledge to make safe and healthy life choices in many areas, including safe driving and skin cancer awareness.

# key dates...

Please visit our website for more details about the latest news and event information.

## May

- 13 Scholarship Ceremony, 7 PM, Mertes Center
- 15 LPC Orchestra & Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 PM\*
- 16 Talk Hawks Speech Performance Night, 7 PM, Mertes Center. \$10, advance; \$12 at door
- 17 Literary Anthology Publication and Awards Ceremony, 2 PM, Room 2401
- 18 Choir Concert with Valley Concert Chorale, *Morten Lauridsen Festival*, 3 PM, Amador Valley Theater. Tickets: valleyconcertchorale.org
- 20 Undergraduate Science Research Poster Session, 11 AM-1 PM, Library
- 20 President's Welcome Reception, 5-6:30 PM, Building 1600 South Courtyard
- 21 One Act Plays, 1 PM, Mertes Center, free
- 23 One Act Plays, 8 PM, Mertes Center, free
- 23-30 Final Exams
- 31 Commencement Ceremony, 10 AM, PE Complex

## June

- 16-July 25 6-Week Summer Session
- 16-Aug 8 8-Week Summer Session

\*Held in Mertes Center for the Arts. Advance tickets can be purchased at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

## Community Connections

### LPD Trains on Campus

The Livermore Police Department held a training exercise on campus on April 16th during spring break. LPC's Campus Safety and Security Department supported and participated in the training.

### Collection Benefits Open Heart Kitchen

Thanks to everyone in the LPC community who donated to the recent Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society food drive. Because of this generosity, the honor society was able to bring three heaping barrels of food to the Open Heart Kitchen, which serves prepared, nutritious meals free of charge to the hungry people of the Tri-Valley area.

Please visit the Athletics website for schedules. Go, Hawks!



*Las Positas Connection* is published by the Office of the President. Mary Lauffer, Editor

## Arts Bloom on Campus in Exhibits, Poetry, and Performing Arts

Courtesy of Library



*Water*, by Sedigheh Ahmadi, is one of 10 award-winning works in the Fine Arts Festival.

LPC arts have been in full bloom during April and May, with shows, events, and awards. Following are some highlights.

**Fine Art.** The 36th Annual Las Positas College Fine Art Festival,

April 25th through May 16th, features student work in the Mertes Center for the Arts and in the Library. Congratulations to Alisha Ellard, winner of the 2014 Pleasanton Art League Scholarship. Many thanks go to the festival sponsors: Way Up Art & Frame, Livermore Art Association, the LPC Bookstore, and the Associated Students of Las Positas College.

**Poetry.** The LPC Poetry Club held a Cinco de Mayo Poetry Slam featuring students and guest poets, including acclaimed area poet Jason Bayani. Thanks to the Milanese Family Fund for sponsoring this event.

**Photography.** LPC celebrated the 2014 Spring Photography Exhibition with a reception and awards ceremony on May 7th. The exhibition is on display until May 17th in two buildings: the Multi-Disciplinary Building and the Mertes Center for the Arts.

**Performing Arts.** Rounds of applause go to the faculty, staff, and students who presented April and May performances in music, dance, and theater. In many cases, the performances reflected semester-long work and rehearsals. Bravo!



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