

## Training Our Firefighters



Mary Lauffer

Students came from across the region to train at LPC's April CAL Fire Basic Firefighter Academy conducted by the Fire Service Technology Program. Certification allows students to be eligible for seasonal employment opportunities with CAL Fire. Above, Instructor Camille Edward guides a student through a drill.

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## LPC Students Explore Opportunities Near and Far

### Majors Fair a Major Success!



Photos by Mary Lauffer

Students filled the Mertes Center to take advantage of Majors Fair on April 27th. They visited with both faculty and student representatives from the college's many academic programs to learn about majors, curriculum, and career options. The fair also featured representatives from LPC's Student Services programs, including the Transfer Center, Financial Aid, EOPS, and Counseling; recruiters from 25 four-year colleges, including CSUs, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, and UC Merced; and representatives from area law enforcement agencies.



President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D., visits with Puente Project students at Majors Fair.

## LPC Students Travel on Black College Tour



Dyan Miller

one of the colleges we visited and many of the students were accepted at multiple colleges on the trip." The colleges they visited were in Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee.

Fifteen LPC students recently visited historically Black colleges and universities as part of a Black College Tour. "The trip was amazing and life changing for many of the students," said Academic Dean and Athletic Director Dyan R. Miller, who accompanied the students. "All 15 students were accepted by at least

# Thanks to Our Best of the Best Supporters!



Guests enjoyed the best in food, wine, and student performances at LPC's 13th Annual Best of the Best fundraising gala held April 23rd in the Mertes Center.

The event and online auction grossed over \$100,000, benefiting our students and supporting LPC as a premier community college. Many thanks go to our generous guests and the LPC Foundation Board of Directors.

The LPC community expresses sincere gratitude to the following restaurants and wineries, which provided the best in gourmet food and fine wines for the gala:

**Restaurants:** Casse-Croûte Bakery, Café Garré, Koi Palace at Dublin, Posada Restaurant, Sabio on Main, and Zephyr Grill & Bar.

**Wineries:** Concannon Vineyard, Cuda Ridge Wines, Darcie Kent Vineyards, Garré Winery, Las Positas College Cellars, Occasio Winery, Page Mill Winery, and Steven Kent Winery.



Mary Lauffer

The special Fund-A-Need event raised over \$13,000 for LPC's Math Jam, an award-winning program that helps students succeed in math and increases their chances of completing a transfer-level math class. Above left, Math Instructor and Math Jam Coordinator Kristy Woods works with a student.

## Men & Women Swim & Dive Win Championships

Both the Men and Women Hawks blew the competition out the water, capturing the Coast Conference Swimming and Diving Championships, which LPC hosted April 21st-23rd. The Men had a whopping 924 points, and the Women had 805. "The final scores were impressive," said Head Coach Jason Craighead. "In my six years, this is the highest women's total by far. I haven't seen a total above 650. For the men, this is the highest point total in conference history."

"It was great to not only see great races and placings, but huge time improvements as well. Everyone on the team had personal bests in all their races," said Coach Craighead.



Courtesy of Athletics

Coach Jason Craighead, far right, congratulates the champions!

## LPC Welcomes New Men's Soccer Head Coach



Mary Lauffer

LPC welcomes new Men's Soccer Head Coach Andy Cumbo, who comes to us from CSU East Bay and brings 15 years of coaching experience in the CSU system. "Las Positas gives me the opportunity to do two things I really love, coaching and teaching," he said. "The facilities are amazing, and the location—there's so much talent in this area," he continued. "This is a dream job. I'm so happy to be here." Coach Cumbo, left, checks out LPC's beautiful soccer field.



# Celebrating Our Science Students' Success

## *Science Rules!*

### Student's Passion Leads to Teaching, Winning, and Dancing with Bill Nye

LPC student Ashley Kim got some of her first science lessons watching *Bill Nye the Science Guy* videos at her elementary school in Pleasanton. Her love of science grew, as did her admiration for this science ambassador and his passion for sharing science with children. She was inspired to do the same. Thanks to a tip from her Biology Instructor Nan Ho, Ms. Kim applied for and landed a job teaching children hands-on science after school—in the same program she enjoyed as a child.

Last semester, she responded to a contest prompt on Bill Nye's Facebook page, asking about how the science guy inspired others. "I wrote about how important it is to teach younger generations about science," Ms. Kim said. "I also described my job teaching children—work that is in my major and that helps the community." Her response won the grand prize—a free trip to New York City to meet Bill Nye and attend a Science Shindig with him and hundreds of guests, including students, scientists, and science professors from across the country. "It was a huge party and we had a great time," she said. Not only did she get to meet Bill Nye, but she and other fans got to dance with him, too. "It was really cool!"

A graduate of Foothill High School, Ms. Kim is looking



Ashley Kim finishes work in her Organic Chemistry Lab at LPC.

forward to her summer research internship at the California Academy of Sciences. After that, she transfers to UC Davis in the fall. "I'm really going to miss Las Positas," she said. She explained how a student can stand out at LPC, saying there have been so many opportunities here for her. She highly recommends that students check out the clubs at LPC. She belongs to a number of clubs, including the Biology Club and Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society. "I tell other students, college is what you make of it," she said. We congratulate Ms. Kim on all of her achievements. She rules in making the most of her experience at LPC!

## Biology Club Students Teach at the Zoo and Pitch In for Earth Day

Students in LPC's Biology Club (including Ashley Kim, featured in the story above) joined representatives from NASA, Stanford University, and UC Berkeley on the list of presenters at the Bay Area Teen Science event held at the San Francisco Zoo. Using skills they developed at LPC, our students took about 30 high school students

from around the Bay Area on an Insect BioBlitz at the zoo.

"They used their scientific and leadership skills they developed in our Biology Program, Biology Club, and Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society, integrated the iNaturalist app that we used for our LPC BioBlitz, and had great fun!" said Biological Sciences Program Co-Coordinator Nan Ho.

"I am especially proud of this group because they are now developing their own professional portfolio based on the opportunities we have given them here," she said. Students with the Biology Club (left) also pitched in and helped clean the campus on Earth Day, April 22nd.



# key dates...

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

## May

- 18 Drama Workshop Student Directed One Acts, 11 AM\*
- 19 Annual Student Scholarship Ceremony, 7 PM,  
Mertes Center  
Radio Las Positas Presents *DJ Dion and The Whiz Kids Live*, 4-8 PM, Cafeteria, Free
- 20 Speech Performance Night, 7 PM\*  
Drama Workshop Student Directed One Acts, 8 PM\*
- 21-27 Final Examination Period
- 27 Commencement, 6 PM, Gym
- 30 **Memorial Day Holiday**
- May 31 First 5-Week Summer Session Begins

## June

- June 13 8-Week Summer Session Begins
- June 20 6-Week Summer Session Begins

## July

- 28-31 **Save the Date!** *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, 8 PM, Mertes Center Amphitheater. An ambitious young man works his way up the corporate ladder in this hilarious musical comedy satire—winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

**\*Mertes Center. Tickets and info: [laspositascollege.edu/performingarts](http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts)**

**Please see the Athletics website for Schedules. Go, Hawks!**

*Las Positas Connection* is published by the Office of the President. Issues are posted online at [laspositascollege.edu/president](http://laspositascollege.edu/president). Mary Lauffer, Editor

## LPC News Notes

**Register Now!** Registration for summer and fall is in full swing at LPC. Please see the website for details.

**Pitch Perfect.** Kudos to student Akash Kapoor, winner of the JFK University's Institute of Entrepreneurial Leadership Business Pitch Contest. Our very own winner of the Most Innovative Award at the 3rd Annual "LPC Shark Tank" competition received the distinction of first place at JFK and was awarded \$1,000 for his pitch about a business, Freight Connection. "Akash's pitch was awesome," said Business Instructor Mark Grooms. "The judges were gushing over his idea and presentation. He was the youngest, and competed against eight people who were going through the JFK program."

## LPC Theater Presents *A Raisin in the Sun*



Courtesy of Theater Arts

Actors from LPC and the local community perform in *A Raisin in the Sun*.

LPC's Theater Arts Program wraps up its season with *A Raisin in the Sun* in the Mertes Center for the Arts Black Box Theater. The play runs May 6th-15th, with Friday and Saturday performances at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. To direct this iconic African-American drama, the Theater Arts Program brought in award-winning director Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe, who has directed many powerful plays about the African-American experience. "This is one of the best productions I have seen in my three years at LPC," said President Russell. "It is groundbreaking in its message and the talent that is on the stage, as well as the set design and technical support, is fantastic."

**Student Wizard.** In an article about students seeking flexible jobs, the May 2nd *Wall Street Journal* mentioned LPC student Anthony Garcia, who joined Eden as a Task Wizard last summer. While taking classes, Mr. Garcia worked flexible hours to help local startups with in-office work. He recently was hired for a full-time human resources position to help recruit other students. Read the article at <http://on.wsj.com/1O8Qkdm>.

**Racquetball Royalty.** Congratulations to Carla Muñoz, an LPC international student from Chile, who won the Women's Singles Title at the 2016 U.S. National Intercollegiate Racquetball Championships. Read more at <http://go.teamusa.org/21LCy8m>.