

## In Memoriam: Kevin Ankoviak

The Las Positas College community grieves the loss of Physics and Astronomy Instructor Kevin M. Ankoviak, Ph.D., who passed away on March 26th after a long illness.

An instructor at LPC since 2000, Dr. Ankoviak is remembered as a passionate educator whose teaching approach emphasized conceptual and critical thinking. He loved the history of science and enjoyed teaching how the scientists, discoveries, ideas, and inventions of one century led to the next. He challenged his students to do their best and liked to entice his physics lab students with the potential for a class-pizza reward if they could conduct their lab experiments with accuracy.

Dr. Ankoviak served in many leadership positions at LPC including Enrollment Management Committee member, Academic Senate Senator, and Faculty Association Treasurer. He earned a B.S. degree from the University of Michigan and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from UCLA.

LPC will celebrate Dr. Ankoviak's life with a memorial service from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on April 11th in Room 2401.

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## LPC Honors Women Veterans

LPC observed Women's Military History Week with its *Second Annual Honoring Women Veterans* event, presented on March 20th by LPC's Veterans First Program. LPC President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D., welcomed students, staff, faculty, and members of the community to the event which featured a panel discussion of women student veterans and a presentation by keynote speaker Mary King, an Army Veteran, West Point graduate, and Chief of Staff to the President of PG&E. Kudos to Veterans First Coordinator Todd Steffan for organizing this important event honoring the special contributions made by women in the military. Many thanks to the Travis Air Force Base Honor Guard for its Presentation of Colors and to student veteran Darlene Arrigo for her beautiful rendition of



Mary Lauffer

Student veterans greet guests at LPC's Honoring Women Veterans event.

the National Anthem. LPC extends sincere appreciation to the following event sponsors: LPC Student Veterans Organization, Pleasanton Military Families, Daughters of the American Revolution, and PG&E, which also generously provided \$500 scholarships for two LPC women student veterans.

## Sample LPC Wines from Campus Hill Vineyard

## RSVP for April 26th *Best of the Best* Gala



Stephanie Secret

Enjoying last year's gala are, from left, John and Marianne Sensiba and Bob and Joyce Shapiro.

The Las Positas College Foundation extends an invitation to join our Tri-Valley community supporters at the *11th Annual Best of the Best* fundraising gala the evening of April 26th in the Mertes Center for the Arts. Proceeds benefit much-needed scholarships and other important campus projects and programs. The gala will be a mix of the best in fun, performing arts, gourmet food, and fine local wine. Guests will begin the evening at a Welcoming Reception featuring delicious hors d'oeuvres, presented by 10 exceptional Tri-Valley restaurants, and Livermore Valley wines from 12 outstanding local wineries—including LPC's very own award-winning Campus Hill Vineyard.

Midway through the evening, guests will be treated to a Performing Arts Showcase featuring student presentations of dance, theater, vocal, music, and interpretive speaking. This is an opportunity to see LPC's Talk Hawks—this year's NorCal forensics champs—in action. The evening is to be capped off with a dessert and champagne celebration of the college.

Even if supporters are unable to attend the *Best of the Best*, they still can invest in our campus community. From April 21st through 30th, bidders from across the country and around the world will be able to "have fun while doing good" by participating in an exciting and dynamic online auction at [BiddingforGood.com/LPCFoundation](http://BiddingforGood.com/LPCFoundation). Auction packages include travel adventures, sports and entertainment tickets, personal services, fine dining, fun for the whole family, and much more.

For more information and to RSVP for the *Best of the Best*, please visit the website at [lpcfoundation.org/bestofthebest](http://lpcfoundation.org/bestofthebest).

## Students Explore Opportunities at Career, Major, and Employment Fair

Students discovered new careers, interviewed and applied for jobs, and explored academic fields of study at the March 26th Career, Major, and Employment Fair. More than 45 employers, including police agencies and the FBI, came to talk with our students about employment. In a survey, students reported that visiting the fair helped them identify careers in their majors that they had not known about before.

Kudos to Counselor and Instructor Heike Gecox for organizing this event, to Rafael Valle and Miguel Alvarez for inviting employers to campus, and to the many staff and faculty who helped students learn about possibilities and

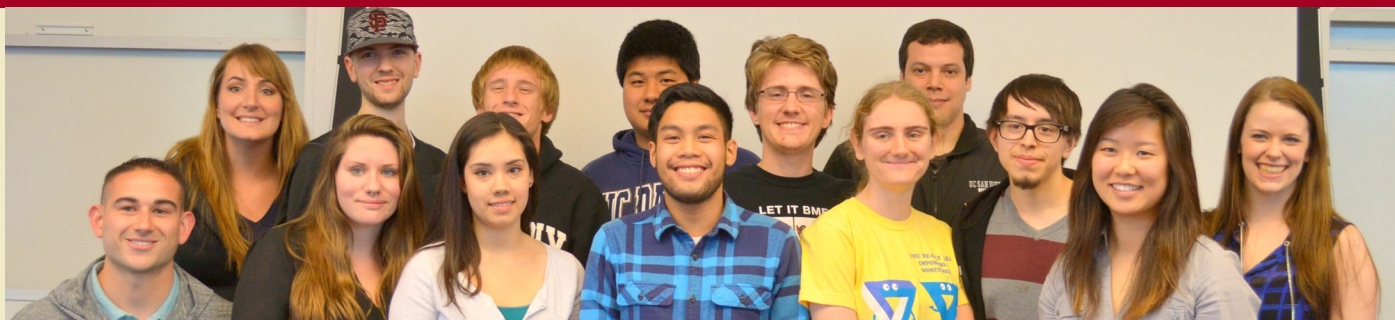
opportunities in a wide range of academic fields of study.



Photos by Greg Johns



## Biology Alumni Panel Puts “Life after LPC” under Microscope



Ashley Kim

LPC alumni who presented on the panel transferred to the following universities: UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz, Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California State University East Bay, and San Francisco State University.

What can LPC students expect when they transfer to four-year universities? How can they prepare for this transition? LPC alumni addressed these questions, shared their experiences, and offered advice to current LPC students at the March 26th *Biology Alumni Panel: Life after Las Positas*. The event was sponsored by the Biology Department and the Biology Club.

Alumni unanimously praised their LPC experiences and classes, not only for the academics but also for the close friends they had made here. They said they appreciated getting to know their LPC instructors well and benefitted from spending lots of time in

LPC’s science labs doing hands-on work. The alumni, some of whom work part time as tutors and researchers, shared studying tips and academic planning strategies, as well as the humorous side of their new lives such as dealing with roommates and learning to do their own laundry.

Many thanks go to our successful alumni panelists who helped LPC students prepare for their academic future. Students appreciated the advice and instructors enjoyed visiting with their former students. Kudos to Biology Instructor Nan Ho and Biology Club President Giavonni Jordan for organizing the event.



# LPC Student Wins Top State and Local Honors

LPC student and Tri-Valley native Jesse Bowens recently won the following two prestigious state and local awards.

## **The Silver Team Award for the Phi Theta Kappa California Community College Academic Team**

Ms. Bowens is one of only 77 students selected for the entire elite academic team, representing some of the best of the 2.4 million students enrolled in California's 112 community colleges. Accompanied by LPC Math Instructor and Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society Advisor Randy Taylor, Ms. Bowens was recognized at an April 3rd ceremony in Sacramento. Phi Theta Kappa is the honor society for community colleges.

## **The Sandia National Laboratories and Livermore Chamber of Commerce College Student of the Year Award**

This scholarship is based on academic achievement, leadership, campus activities, and community service. Accompanied by Student Services Vice President Diana Rodriguez, Ms. Bowens accepted the honor at a chamber ceremony.

In addition to providing her with opportunities for academic achievement and community service, Ms. Bowens said that her experience at LPC has helped her develop relationships and take advantage of the strong sense of community on campus. While at LPC, Ms. Bowens has

been active with the Business Club, the International Business Association, Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, and the Student Senate, while maintaining a 3.95 grade point average. She placed second in the state for her presentation on Business Ethics and Society in a recent business student competition. (Please see related story below.)



Jesse Bowens has been honored as a top student in the state.

Courtesy of Jesse Bowens

# Business Club Students Place Second in State

Courtesy of Business Club



LPC students celebrate their conference win over students from UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Davis, USC, and more.

LPC students meant business at last month's California Phi Beta Lambda State Business Leadership Conference in Los Angeles where they placed second in the state, competing with 280 students from 16

two- and four-year colleges and universities including UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Davis, and USC. Eighteen students with LPC's Business Club brought home 21 medals

and eight students qualified for the national competition to be held in June in Nashville, Tennessee.

Business Instructor and Club Advisor Rajeev Chopra (far left in photo) explained that students participated in 48 different knowledge and performance competitions. He said most events were actual case studies in which a team was required to analyze an issue, find a solution, and present it to a panel of judges within 20 minutes. He credits excellent preparation and performance for the students' success.

Phi Beta Lambda is a division of the Future Business Leaders of America, the largest business career student organization in the world. Congratulations to our future business leaders from LPC!

## **Five Honors Students to Present Original Research at UC Berkeley**

Five LPC Honors students had their original research proposals accepted for presentation at the 7th Annual Honors Research Symposium to be held at UC Berkeley on May 3rd. Honors Transfer Program Director and Humanities Instructor Candy Klaschus, Ph.D., made the announcement and recognized the following faculty mentors: Jeremiah Bodnar, Christina Lee, Mircea Gheorghiu, Ph.D., and Robin Roy, Ph.D.

## **Talk Hawks Triumph in Paris**

Bravo, Talk Hawks! LPC's Forensics team brought home four semifinalist victories and 12 wins in the top 20 in last month's International Forensics Association Tournament in Paris, France. The team, which captured First Place at the recent Northern California Championship Tournament, heads to nationals this month for its final tournament of the year.



Courtesy of Talk Hawks

# key dates...

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

## April

- 4-13 *Spring Awakening*, April 4, 5, 11, 12 at 8 PM; April 6, 13 at 2 PM. Admission\*
- 9 *Hawk Factor* Student Talent Show, 6:30-8:30 PM, Mertes Center. Students, free; guests, \$5
- 14-19 Spring Break
- 21-30 *Best of the Best* Online Auction, [biddingforgood.com/LPCfoundation](http://biddingforgood.com/LPCfoundation)
- 22 Business and Entrepreneurship Speaker Series, Karl Schroeder, 6-7:15 PM, RM 2420, free
- 23 Club Day, 11 AM-2 PM, Campus Boulevard
- 24 Speaker Temple Grandin, 7 PM, admission\*
- 25-May 16 36th Annual Spring Art Festival, Mertes Center, free
- 26 *Best of the Best* Gala. Tickets: [lpcfoundation.org/bestofthebest](http://lpcfoundation.org/bestofthebest)



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

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## May

- 1 Awards, Gala, and Reception for Spring Art Festival, 1-2 PM, Mertes Center, free
- 3 Dance Performance, 8 PM\*
- 7 Student Music Recital, 12:30 PM, Mertes Center, free
- 8 Bike to Work Day
- 10 Jazz Night Concert, 8 PM\*
- 15 LPC Orchestra & Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 PM\*
- 16 Speech Performance Night, 7 PM, Mertes Center. \$10, advance; \$12 at door
- 18 Choir Concert with Valley Concert Chorale, *Morten Lauridsen Festival*, 3 PM, Amador Valley Theater. Tickets: [valleyconcertchorale.org](http://valleyconcertchorale.org)
- 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

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

## Campus Events Support Partnerships, Enrichment, and Service

### LPC Supports Retail Industry Partnership

Among the many programs LPC provides to add value to local industry and improve the workforce in our region is the highly-regarded Retail Management Certificate Program, offered through the Business and Marketing Department. While this 10-course program is designed to help employees advance their education and careers in all aspects of retail, it originally was created for the food retailer and supplier industry which continues to be a leading beneficiary and industry partner. The program is endorsed by the Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC), a non-profit association dedicated solely to the support of education programs for the food industry.

Food industry executives and community college representatives from across the region convened on LPC's campus on March 14th for WAFC's advisory board meeting to discuss educational opportunities for the industry. "The community college program is extremely successful in providing this important education to our employees," said WAFC President and Chairman Steve Junqueiro. "I want to thank the colleges for your partnership in making this happen."

After successfully completing the Retail Management Certificate Program, students often choose to take their education to the next level. "Many students discover a love for education while obtaining the certificate, and a degree in either business or marketing becomes the next stop," said LPC's Business and Marketing Department

Coordinator Lisa Taylor Weaver, Ph.D., who has served as WAFC's statewide education co-chair for 10 years. She also noted that faculty reap many benefits from the industry partnership. "Working closely with the retail industry, the vendors, and the manufacturers has been a valuable connection for all of our instructors as well."

### Teacher of the Year Extols Merits of STEM Education Careers

Regina Brinker, the Livermore science teacher named 2013 Teacher of the Year for Alameda County, visited LPC on March 26th to speak about the rewards and challenges of teaching Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to middle school students. She also shared with the LPC community her story about her own educational and career pathway.

### Shakespeare Troupe Takes the Stage at LPC

Thanks to sponsorship from the LPC Foundation, the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival presented its touring production of *Julius Caesar* at LPC on March 12th. The theater company has performed at LPC in the past and, each year, many students report that this is the first time they have ever seen a Shakespeare play.

### LPC Makes a Difference with Blood Drive

LPC appreciates all of the donors who participated in the Spring American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by our Student Health and Wellness Center. Thanks to our donors, LPC was able to collect enough units of blood to potentially save up to 114 lives.



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