

## key dates...

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

### December

- 12 Instrumental Fall Concert, LPC Orchestra & Wind Ensemble, 7:30 PM\*
- 13 *Holiday Fun Day*, 11 AM- 12:30 PM, Child Development Center. Free; parking \$2 or semester permit. Recommended for ages 1-6. *Stories & Speeches*, LPC Speech Department Performance, 7 PM\*
- 14 Jazz Night Concert, LPC Instrumental Jazz Combo, 8 PM\*
- 14-20 Final Exams Period
- DEC 24-JAN 1 Winter Recess

### Wishes for a Joyful New Year!

### January

- 20 Holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 21 Spring 2014 semester instruction begins

\* Main Stage Theater. Students/Seniors \$8; General \$12. Parking \$2 or semester permit.

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## Men's Cross-Country Student Athlete Places First at Coast Conference

LPC student athlete Abe Espinoza came in first overall at the Cross-Country Coast Conference Championships. He ran four miles in a little over 20 minutes, approximately 5:05 per mile, said Cross-Country Head Coach Steve Navarro. His time set a course record for LPC. The Men's Cross-Country team placed second at the conference and finished fourth in the NorCal playoffs. Congratulations to Mr. Espinoza, the team, assistant coaches, and Coach Navarro.

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



## LPC's Hot Ticket: Fahrenheit 451

Response to the LPC Theater Department's production of *Fahrenheit 451* last month was overwhelming. "The final weekend we were putting up 'sold-out' signs before the box office even opened," said Theater Instructor Wendy Wisely who directed the play. "We had audience members come up after every show,

thanking us for bringing a book they loved to the stage. This was my measure for success for this production: that those who remembered the book would love the show. They did!" Based on the dystopian novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Ray Bradbury, the play cautions against censorship and denial of independent thought. Kudos to Ms. Wisely, the cast, and crew for a sizzling success.



Actor Alex Draa stars as Fireman Montag.

Theater Dept. Photo

## Way to Go, Champs! Men's Soccer Team Captures Coast Conference North Division Championships



Photo by Larry Aguilar

Congratulations to the Men's Soccer Team, Head Coach Larry Aguilar, and assistant coaches for winning the Coast Conference North Division Championships. After achieving this victory, they moved on to the first round of NorCal playoffs where they beat Taft College, regarded as the best

team in the NorCal Soccer Competition, in an intense game that went into FIFA regulation penalty kicks. In the second round of NorCal playoffs, LPC played against Hartnell College. Even though the team played a fantastic game and the score was 0-0 at half, Hartnell scored two points

in the second half. "We gave it our best shot and just fell short with the score but certainly not the attitude," said Coach Aguilar. "Our students left the stadium as excellent sportsmen representing Las Positas College and as champions."



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Chabot-Las Positas Community College District



# Las Positas Connection

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus & Community | December 2013

## Appreciation for Administrators' Interim Service

The LPC community expresses its appreciation to administrators who are serving or have served in interim leadership positions. Many thanks to the following individuals.

**Janice Noble, Ph.D.**, former Interim President and current Vice President for Academic Services.

**Diana Rodriguez**, former Interim Vice President for Academic Services in addition to her role as Vice President of Student Services.

**Lisa Everett, Ed.D.**, current Interim Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Public Safety.

**Justin Garoupa**, current Interim Dean for Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences.

**Barbara Morrissey**, current Interim Dean for Student Services.

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## LPC Welcomes New President



Barry A. Russell, Ph.D., is the sixth President of Las Positas College.

Photo by Mary Lauffer

The Las Positas College community began Thanksgiving week welcoming a new president, Barry A. Russell, Ph.D. At its November 19th meeting, the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees approved the hiring of Dr. Russell as the sixth President of Las Positas College.

President Russell spent his first days on campus getting to know people in the LPC community.

"This is Thanksgiving week, and I am very thankful to be serving as the Las Positas President," he said. Students, staff, and faculty introduced themselves to President Russell and welcomed him to campus. He had lunch with staff, visited with students, and shook the hands of the Men's Soccer team players as they headed off to a game.

President Russell comes to the college with extensive leadership expertise and experience in higher education. "Dr. Russell brings a background and experience to Las Positas College that will ensure that it continues to grow academically and physically to even better serve the citizens of the Tri-Valley region. He is a proven leader with a broad understanding of academic affairs, accreditation, and participatory administration," said District Chancellor Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D.



President Russell meets counseling staff members. From left: Joel Gagnon, President Russell, Marina Lira, and Gilberto Victoria.

Photo by Mary Lauffer

Before coming to LPC, Dr. Russell served as the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs in the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and as a member of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Prior to joining the state Chancellor's Office, Dr. Russell held administrative positions at several California community colleges. He served as Vice President of Instruction at College of the Siskiyous and Dean of Fine Arts and Communication at Cerritos College and Southwestern College. Dr. Russell earned his Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas at



President Russell, back row, gets to know student leaders with the Associated Students of LPC student government.

Photo by Mary Lauffer

Austin in 1991. His alma mater honored him as a 2012 Distinguished Graduate of the Community College Leadership Program. He also holds degrees in music from Texas A&M University - Commerce.



## Sharing the Spirit

# LPC Spreads Holiday Cheer

While the LPC community is wrapping up the semester and busy with final exams and reports, the college also takes time to celebrate the holiday season—serving, sharing, and spreading joy. Following are some of our holiday activities.

### Serving the Hungry

Students with the Associated Students of LPC student government spent part of their Thanksgiving holiday break serving guests at Open Heart Kitchen which serves prepared, nutritious meals free of charge to the hungry people of the Tri-Valley area.

### Caring for CalWORKs

The CalWORKs program, which supports low-income students, is collecting holiday gift cards and cash donations for our CalWORKs students and their children. All donations for this annual collection are tax deductible. Please bring donations to the CalWORKs office in the SSA Building, Room 1668, by December 11th. Gifts will be distributed at the December 13th CalWORKs Holiday Celebration.

### Donating Food

Food drop-off barrels are signs of the season at LPC. The Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS)

Honor Society is holding its annual Holiday Food Drive through December 10th, asking for donations of canned or boxed food which will be taken to ABODE Services in Livermore. AGS adviser Randy Taylor noted that the Social Service Coordinator of the ABODE Services Livermore Office is Nelly Villanueva, an LPC graduate and past AGS member. Find drop-off barrels in Building 1600, the Library, the PE building, and Room 601. Mr. Taylor reported that AGS collected 400 coats and sweaters for its Keep Them Warm Coat Drive in October. The items were donated to Shepherd’s Gate, a Livermore shelter for women and children.

### Sharing Toys

The LPC Veterans First Program and the LPC Student Veterans Organization collected unwrapped new toys for the children of Alameda County in support of Toys for Tots and the Chabot College Student Veterans Organization Winter Toy Festival. The LPC organizations also held a December 2nd party serving up holiday cheer, cookies, and cider.

### Enchanting Children

LPC invites children in our community to a free *Holiday Fun Day* from 11 a.m. to 12:30

p.m. on December 13th in the Child Development Center. Recommended for children ages one through six, the event will feature stories, skits, singing, and crafts presented by the award-winning LPC Talk Hawks speech team, the Child Development Center, and the Library staff.

### Celebrating with a Nutcracker

LPC Performing Arts planned holiday fun for the whole family: *A Modern American Nutcracker*, at 8 p.m., December 7th, in the Mertes Center for the Arts. Nationally-acclaimed musical legend Jim Hurley of Livermore created this innovative adaptation of Tchaikovsky’s holiday classic. This special performance is the first collaboration of the LPC Dance and Music departments with guest Mr. Hurley on fiddle. Choreography is by both faculty and students under the direction of Dance Instructor Faith Blevins, with musical direction from Music Instructor Cindy Browne Rosefield. Ms. Rosefield describes the production as “a little bit of classical, country, funk, jazz—and mice street dancing to hip-hop! We are fortunate to have a local gem like Jim Hurley work with us. His credentials in teaching, gigs, and recordings are beyond impressive,” she said.

## LPC Welding Helps Restore Tri-Valley Treasure

### Student and Faculty Work Shines in Mount Diablo Beacon Restoration Project, Winner of Outstanding Collaborative Project for Tri-Valley Philanthropy

A team of LPC students and faculty helped build the trailer that carried a restored 1928 beacon up Mount Diablo to its home on the summit building on October 22nd.

Welding Instructor Scott Miner, who spent three days welding atop the summit building, attended the East Bay Business Leadership Council philanthropy awards event where the Mount Diablo Beacon Restoration Project was presented with the Outstanding Collaborative Project award. LPC Anatomy Instructor John Gallagher also served on the Save Mount Diablo team.

The Eye of Diablo, a historic revolving beacon that used to guide airplanes, is now turned on only once a year on December 7th to commemorate the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

## Business Club Students Win Awards and Land Internship Opportunities

LPC student business clubs recently attended two conferences where they won awards and got coveted internships.

Members of the LPC Business Club attended a conference in Concord sponsored by Future Business Leaders of America where they learned about presentation skills, entrepreneurship, and leadership and also competed with teams from two- and four-year colleges and universities to present solutions to case studies. Club Advisor and Business Instructor Rajeev Chopra noted that the LPC teams took second place and tied for fourth place in competitions.

International Business Association students traveled to Los Angeles for a leadership conference sponsored by Enactus, an international network of institutions, academic leaders, executives, and companies. “The conference was a great opportunity for LPC students to learn about leadership and to network with CEOs and leaders of major corporations,” said club President Jed Tabernero. Club Advisor and Business Instructor Tom Blinn noted that many LPC students who attended were offered internships.

## Judges Bite at New Ideas in LPC’s First “Shark Tank”

Four business-savvy students bested the competition by presenting prize-winning pitches in LPC’s first “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 November 20th.

The team of Amy Lundeen and Jonathan Schannep, who also served as a Marine and earned his LPC degree in Fire Science, won the prize for Most Innovative for “Information Life-Line,” a software application that can help save lives in an emergency. Mario Castillo and Keven Hempel won Most Likely to Succeed for “Laundry Buddy,” their software application to improve laundry day at a self-service laundry.

LPC is grateful to the following three individuals who volunteered to serve as judges, or “sharks”: Scott Vigallon, LPC Instructional Technology/Open Learning Coordinator; Brandon Cardwell, LPC alumnus and Vice President of i-GATE Innovation Hub of Livermore; and Jody Bagno-Dill, founder and CEO of JAZZ Business Consulting. Student winners were

presented with cash prizes and also will receive complimentary mentoring sessions from Livermore’s i-GATE Innovation Hub.

“We were very impressed with the ideas and presentation skills of the students,” said Business and Marketing Department Coordinator Lisa Taylor Weaver, Ph.D. Thirteen students qualified to compete. Business Instructor and “Head Shark” Tom Blinn organized the competition designed to spark interest in entrepreneurship, foster innovation, and give students the opportunity to develop the mindset and skills of successful entrepreneurs.

“Shark Tank” is one of three Business and Marketing Department initiatives this year providing entrepreneurship education and enrichment for the campus and community. In September, the department brought to campus the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour, a national motivational touring event that features some of the country’s top young



Photo by Mary Lauffer

Testing the waters for entrepreneurship at the LPC “Shark Tank,” are, from left: judges Jody Bagno-Dill, Brandon Cardwell, and Scott Vigallon; organizer Business Instructor Tom Blinn; and student winners Amy Lundeen, Jonathan Schannep, Keven Hempel, and Mario Castillo.

## Child Development Center Hosts First Family Fun Day

Children of all ages petted lop-eared bunnies, got horse-drawn buggy rides, created art projects, made yogurt parfaits, and explored LPC’s state-of-the-art Child Development Center at the center’s first Family Fun Day on November 16th.

During the day, families from the Tri-Valley got to know each other and the center, a premier resource for early child development. “The best thing about the Family Fun Day,” said center Program Director Corinna Calica, “was witnessing families discover and explore the center as a community where they can see themselves belonging.”

The center offers Toddler and Preschool Programs and provides families with ongoing support, a resource center, and an active parent club. The center collaborates with LPC’s Early Childhood Development program, models best practices, and features highly qualified staff. The acclaimed facilities, built with Measure B funding, include quality furnishings and educational materials, outdoor play areas with unique water features, and gardens where children grow their own vegetables. The center also serves LPC students as a learning laboratory and enables Early Childhood Development students to complete their capstone project.

Ms. Calica thanked local Tri-Valley businesses, campus departments, and generous individuals who donated items for the Family Fun Day silent auction. Congratulations to Ms. Calica and staff who presented an educational and fun-filled day for Tri-Valley families.

## Nationally-Renowned ADHD Expert Speaks at LPC

LPC students and the community learned about the latest research and findings regarding Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) when one of the nation’s leading authorities spoke about the subject at LPC on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Psychology Department and Psychology Club hosted Dr. Stephen P. Hinshaw, an award-winning author, nationally-recognized researcher and professor, and a leading authority on child and adolescent mental health and development, with a special emphasis on ADHD.

The LPC Psychology Department brings world-renowned speakers and events to the campus and Tri-Valley community. A frequent LPC visitor was the late Kim Peek, the super-savant who inspired the Oscar winning film *Rain Man*. Past speakers also have included Dr. John Ratey, best-selling author and associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School; Dr. William C. Dement, the world’s leading authority on sleep and regarded as the “Father of Sleep Medicine;” Robert Sapolsky, MacArthur “genius” Fellow and world-renowned neuroscientist and expert on stress; and Temple Grandin, portrayed in an award-winning movie and regarded as the world’s most accomplished and best-known adult with autism.

Congratulations to the Psychology Department and Psychology Club for this successful event featuring Dr. Hinshaw and for the October 23<sup>rd</sup> sold-out performance by the nationally-acclaimed entertainer Brian Copeland in the Mertes Center Main Stage Theater.