

*"For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice." – T.S. Eliot*

Happy New Year!

Spring 2016 is shaping up to be one of the biggest semesters on record for LPC. We have more classes, more faculty, and more options for students in our spring 2016 Schedule of Classes. Also, we are able to offer more opportunities through our "Gateway to STEM Program," sponsored by a \$2.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. LPC is providing new and enriched programs for all students, but specifically targeting Hispanic students. Students can still register for classes, which begin January 19th.



LPC's banner in Stoneridge Mall during the holiday season

Internationally Beloved Opera Singer Frederica von Stade to Perform at LPC



Photo courtesy of Frederica von Stade

An Evening with Frederica von Stade
Co-Hosted by the LPC Foundation
Benefiting the Livermore Valley Opera
Saturday, February 6th, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
LPC Mertes Center for the Arts
Tickets: livermorevalleyopera.com

The LPC Foundation will co-host a benefit event featuring special guest Frederica von Stade, one of the world's most beloved opera stars. Guests will enjoy beautiful music, exceptional wines, and Posada Restaurant's award-winning hors d'oeuvres in LPC's beautiful Mertes Center for the Arts.

During the evening, LPC President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D., will conduct an on-stage interview with Ms. von Stade. The event will also feature the Young Musicians Choral Orchestra, which is mentored by the opera star. Following her performance, Ms. von Stade will attend an audience wine and cheese reception. Stephanie Beasly, Chair of the LPC Foundation Board of Directors, noted that the event provides enrichment for both our students and the Bay Area public. LPC students will receive special pricing for the performance.

Frederica von Stade has enriched the world of classical music for three decades and is well known to audiences around the world through her numerous TV appearances, including several PBS specials and "Live from Lincoln Center" telecasts. Following are excerpts from reviews: "...one of America's finest artists and singers."

– *The New York Times*

"Von Stade seems to have a wonderful time on stage, and it's impossible not to have a good time along with her."

– *Chicago Tribune*

"Even if she were not one of the great singers of our day, mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade could probably draw a full house of people eager just to be in her presence and watch her be herself. She's that enchanting."

– *San Francisco Chronicle*

Faculty and Staff Win National Excellence Awards



The League for Innovation in the Community College has announced five LPC recipients of the national John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards, which celebrate outstanding contributions and leadership by community college faculty and staff. The award winners are, from left, Head Coach for Swimming and Diving Jason Craighead, Math Instructor Kristy Woods,

English Instructor Elena Cole, Dean of Enrollment Services Sylvia Rodriguez, and Veterans First Program Coordinator Todd Steffan. Congratulations to these winners who have made significant contributions to student success and have provided service to LPC over and above their position requirements.

Proclamation Commends LPC for Top Ranking in the State



Assemblymember Catharine Baker recently presented a proclamation to President Russell, recognizing LPC's ranking of second in the state among community colleges by BestColleges.com. LPC was also ranked fourth in the state by Schools.com and consistently is rated as a top community college in California. LPC continues to report one of the highest transfer rates in the state. Following is an excerpt from the proclamation: "As a tribute to its strong academic curriculum and high retention, graduation, and transfer rates, Las Positas College in Livermore has been ranked as the second best two-year college in California by bestcolleges.com, and in recognition of its commitment to providing high-quality education services to the community it serves, it is deserving of the highest commendations and heartiest congratulations."

Campus Safety Officers Stay Current with Latest Training

Last month, LPC Campus Safety Officers participated in scenario/reality-based training on campus. Student veterans with LPC's Veterans First Program helped out by serving as role players for the event. "I observed all of the scenarios and was very pleased with all of the officers and their ability to handle different situations that may occur on campus," said Campus Safety and Security Supervisor Sean Prather. The event was the

second part of a training program. The first part was classroom-based, where the officers received instruction on emergency response, planning, and best practice. LPC plans CPR training for faculty and staff for later this year as part of our ongoing safety training and awareness on campus. Representatives from other campuses have visited LPC to learn about our safety practices and procedures.

Hawks Keep Streak Alive with 9th Straight Win



Courtesy of Athletics

LPC's high-flying Hawks celebrate their win at a recent championship game at the Skyline College Tournament; new Head Men's Basketball Coach James Giacomazzi is in the back row, far right.

LPC Men's Basketball team won its eighth straight game, defeating Ohlone 92-81 in the Coast Conference North Division opener in Fremont on January 6th. On January 8th, they kept their streak alive, capturing their ninth straight victory, a 67-59 win over Foothill at LPC. The victory marked the first time in the Hawks' 10-year history that they started the conference by winning the

first two games. It also marked LPC's second-longest win streak ever. The Hawks, ranked #18 in the state and #9 in Northern California, improved to 12-5 overall and 2-0 in the Coast Conference North Division. Foothill (8-8, 0-2) entered ranked #15 in NorCal. Keep up with the team on the website at athletics.laspositascollege.edu/sports/mbkb. Cheer them on at the games!

Lady Hawks Overcome Obstacles to Win Conference Opener

It did not bode well for the Women's Basketball team on January 6th when players on the bench holding crutches outnumbered available players. But the Hawks overcame their obstacles and scored a victory, outlasting Ohlone 63-56 in overtime in both teams' Coast Conference North

Division opener in Fremont. The team lost the next game, making the Hawks' conference record 1-1 and dropping their overall mark to 12-6. Follow the team's schedule and news on the website at athletics.laspositascollege.edu/sports/wbkb. Go, Hawks!

Men's Cross Country Finishes 3rd in NorCal, 14th in State



Courtesy of Athletics

Men's Cross Country finished its season placing 3rd in NorCal and 14th in the state, besting many colleges with two to three times the enrollment of LPC. Top runner Jason Intravaia placed 4th in the state for 4 miles in 20:33, or 5:08 per mile. In Women's Cross Country,

Maria Harral placed 13th in the NorCal meet, running LPC's second fastest time ever. Congratulations to the student athletes and coaches, including Head Coach Steve Navarro, far right in the above photo.

key dates...

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

January

- 18 Holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 19 Regular Full-Term Instruction Begins
- 28 Samuel Carl Adams Lecture, 7 PM*
- 29 LA Signals Masterclass and Concert, 4 PM*

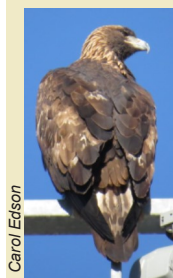
February

- 4 Faculty Showcase, 7 PM*
- 6 *An Evening with Frederica von Stade*, 6:30 PM, Mertes Center. Tickets: livermorevalleyopera.com
- 9 *Brian Copeland: Not a Genuine Black Man*, 7:30 PM, Mertes Center. Tickets \$15 general and \$10 students, brownpapertickets.com/event/2473846
- 11 Guest Lecture: Kalil, 7 PM*
- 12-15 Holiday, Presidents' Day Weekend
- 16 LPC Flex Day: offices closed, no instruction; evening classes will resume
- 17 Business & Entrepreneurship Speaker Ken Avery, 6:15-7:30 PM, RM 2420, Free
*Mertes Center. Tickets and info:
laspositascollege.edu/performingarts

In this issue

- Happy New Year!
- Opera Star Performs at LPC Feb. 6
- National Excellence Winners
- Proclamation Applauds LPC's Top Ranking
- Safety Training on Campus
- Basketball Teams Win Conference Openers
- Cross Country Finishes in High Gear
- LPC News Notes
- Key Dates and Events

Golden Eagle Lands in Hawk Country



Carol Edson

Carol Edson, Geology/Oceanography Lab Technician, snapped a shot of this golden eagle perched atop a light pole at LPC's track early one December morning.

Las Positas Connection is published by the Office of the President. Issues are posted online at laspositascollege.edu/president. Mary Lauffer, Editor

LPC News Notes

Scholarship Challenge. LPC faculty rose to the challenge once again in an annual fundraiser for student scholarships. The Academic Senate raised \$1,030 for student scholarships in the December Academic Senate Scholarship Challenge. The Behavioral Sciences, Business, and Athletics Division had the highest percentage of donations.

Student Veterans. The Student Veterans Organization collected lots of toys for tots last month. Thanks to everyone who contributed.



Mary Lauffer



Student Au Pairs. LPC's International Student Program held an open house specifically for au pairs, who are required to enroll in six units during their one-year stint as au pairs in the U.S. LPC's highly-regarded International Student Program attracts students from about 35 different countries.

Story Hour. Children enjoyed holiday tales, crafts, snacks, and a performance by the award-winning Talk Hawks speech team at the annual Children's Holiday Story Hour. Sponsored by the Talk Hawks, Library, and Early Childhood Development Program, the event was held in LPC's state-of-the-art Child Development Center.



Corinna Calica