



Las Positas Connection

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus, and Community | November 2015

Cultivating success from vine to wine

Students Grow Their Wine Careers at LPC



David Everett

On a crisp October morning, students use sharp shears to carefully clip each cluster of grapes from vines atop LPC's Campus Hill Vineyard. They place the grapes into lugs (small bins), which they then gently empty into a macrobin. It's harvest time for LPC's Viticulture and Winery Technology Program. Students will proceed to transform these grapes into bottles of LPC's finest—Las Positas College Cellars wines.

LPC is located in the heart of Livermore Valley Wine Country, one of California's oldest and most historically important wine producing regions, and offers the area's only community college program in viticulture and wine making. Students get hands-on experience, from vine to wine, using state-of-the-art equipment and working in the college's own vineyard, which greets visitors at the campus' east entrance.

Students can choose a program path that's best for them: preparing to transfer, earning a degree or certificate, upgrading their skills, or simply indulging their interest by taking individual classes, like the popular Food and Wine Pairing. Students can also choose from two tracks: Viticulture (grape growing) or Enology (wine making). The program enjoys strong partnerships with Livermore

Valley Wine Country and provides education for the local wine industry. "The Viticulture courses offered by Las Positas College have provided our family's vineyard with a solid foundation of sustainable farming practices and tactical knowledge," said Paul Moretti. "As a result, the overall vine health and grape quality has improved, increasing winery demand for our crop."

The program produces a number of varietals, and the 2015 harvest looks highly promising. "The Campus Hill Vineyard yielded approximately six tons of predominately Rhone and Iberian varietals for processing, including two tons of our much sought-after Spanish white grape, Albarino, which is the only Albarino grown in the Livermore Valley AVA," said Program Coordinator David Everett.

LPC's wines are key to many classes, including the Sensory Analysis of Wines, which features tasting techniques, characteristics and styles of wine varieties, and wine sensory evaluation methods. Classes also focus on the science of winemaking, vineyard management, and winery operations, sales, and management—preparing students for every aspect of the viticulture and wine making industry.

LPC Students Bring Home Awards

DreamMakers, RiskTakers Awards

Two LPC students have been honored with DreamMakers and RiskTakers Awards from Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group. Michael Kapetanich, who is majoring in International Development with a minor in International Business, serves as the Associated Students of LPC President, as well as the President of the Christian Club. Dayllan Maar, a Communications major, has a passion for public speaking and science. He presented at LPC's first Student Seminar and the Community College Entrepreneur Pathway 90-Second Elevator Pitch Competition, and won awards two years in a row at LPC's Shark Tank entrepreneurship competition. Both students are also recognized for their service to others.



Attending the DreamMakers and RiskTakers Award Ceremony are, from left, Business Instructor Mark Grooms, Business Program Coordinator Lisa Taylor Weaver, Ph.D., students Dayllan Maar and Michael Kapetanich, and LPC President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D.

Photo by Jeanie Haigh

Journalism Awards

Two LPC students received top awards from the Associated Collegiate Press in an international competition honoring the best college journalism in the U.S. and Canada. Tami Shepherd earned second place for Photo Excellence Feature Picture for her image in LPC's *Naked Magazine*. Jesus Mesina won fourth place

for Design of the Year Illustration for his drawing of late Art Instructor Bill Paskewitz in LPC's student newspaper *The Express*. Our students competed with students from two- and four-year colleges, including UCLA, DePaul, Baylor, and the University of Miami.

Speech and Debate Awards

LPC's Talk Hawks forensics team flew past 14 other schools to capture First Place Overall in its recent tournament—giving the team two first-place wins in a row. LPC student Kimbria Mitchell won Top Speaker.

LPC Theater Arts Presents Oscar Wilde's Classic Comedy of Manners *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Mistaken identities, witty dialogue, and marriage proposals are all part of LPC's upcoming production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*. Oscar Wilde's comic masterpiece follows two friends who use the same pseudonym, Ernest, to add excitement into their lives. Hilarity ensues when they fall in love with women while using that name, leading to a comedy of mistaken identities.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Saturdays, December 4th-12th in the Black Box Theater of the Mertes Center for the Arts. Theater Arts Program Coordinator Titian Lish is directing the play. For ticket information, please visit the performing arts website.



Courtesy of President Russell

"Cycling 4 Veterans" Benefits LPC Students

President Russell and Assemblymember Catharine Baker joined LPC's Veterans First Program and other local organizations for the first "Cycling 4 Veterans" event in Livermore on October 17th. Proceeds benefited our program and the Student Veterans Organization, plus five other nonprofits that serve veterans and active military. Thanks to all participants for their support!

Athletics Roundup: Cheer On Our Hawks!

Cross Country Makes Tracks to the Top

Head Coach Steve Navarro reports that the Men's Cross Country team finished 2nd in the conference meet and the women finished 4th. Jason Intravaia was the second fastest runner in the entire conference and Maria Harral finished 15th. Both teams qualified for the Nor-Cal finals. Congratulations to the students and coaches!



Basketball Teams Win Season Openers

Both the Women's and Men's Basketball teams bested the competition to win their opening games of the season. In the first game under new coach James Giacomazzi, the men scored a 95-49 blowout win—the largest margin of victory in the program's 10-year history. Head Coach Clarence Morgan leads the lady Hawks. Follow the teams by visiting the Athletics website.



President Russell and CLPCCD Trustee Carlo Vecchiarelli show their Hawks spirit.

Soccer Offers Life-Changing Benefits

Soccer players at LPC benefit from more than just being part of a great team. LPC holds ID Camps, attracting coaches from four-year colleges including Stanford, Cal, UCLA, Santa Clara, San Jose State, Chico State, San Francisco State, and Saint Mary's College. At the camps, coaches assess, identify, and coach our student athletes. As a result, Midfielder Maddie Umidon has recently committed to NCAA Division 1 Saint Mary's College Women's Soccer program for the 2016 season. "This shows the value of playing, improving, and transferring—while saving families tens of thousands of dollars in the process—then being rewarded with a quality degree at the end," said Women's Soccer Head Coach Paul Sapsford. Both women's and men's teams are enjoying successful competitive seasons. "The best part is that the team has learned to play Total Soccer," said Men's Soccer Head Coach Larry Aguiar. Total Soccer stresses adaptability: players can quickly switch positions, depending on the on-field situation.



Maddie Umidon

Water Polo Inaugural Season Exceeds Expectations

LPC's newest team sport is off to an auspicious start. The men's team has surpassed expectations by finishing 4th in the Coast Conference regular season. Head Coach Rob Arroyo notes that most of the team, comprised of student athletes from 12 different local high schools, will return next season and they are eager to continue building a premier water polo program. The women's team is finishing the season with a 5-4 record for head-to-head conference games and an overall record of 9 wins and 14 losses. "Our women are complimented regularly on play style and work ethic during games by both referees and opposing coaches," said Head Coach Trevor Rose. "We have worked our way through an extremely tough play schedule, going up against five of the top six teams in the state, and in my mind have progressed beyond expectations."



key dates...

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

November

25-28 Thanksgiving Recess; no instruction. **Happy Thanksgiving!**

December

4-12 *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 8 PM Fridays and Saturdays, 2 PM Saturdays; Mertes Center*
5 Dance Concert, 8 PM, Mertes Center*
9 Student Music Recital, 1 PM, Mertes Center*
10 Orchestra & Chamber Choir Concert, 8 PM, Mertes Center*
11 Stories and Speeches, 7 PM, Mertes Center*
13 Instrumental & Vocal Jazz Concert, 3 PM, Mertes Center*
12-18 Final Exams
24 Winter Recess begins

***Ticket info at laspositascollege.edu/performingarts
Parking permits are required on campus.**

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

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Welding Tech Instructor Honored

Welding Technology Instructor Bal Gakhal (second from left) receives the Howard E. Adkins Memorial Section Educator Award for his service to the welding industry and students. David Landon, American Welding Society National President, presents the award during his visit and speaking engagement with LPC Welding students. Also shown are Welding Instructor Todd Stinn (left) and Welding Program Coordinator Scott Miner (right).

Courtesy of Welding Program

LPC News Notes

Alumni Science Panel. LPC alumni from four-year colleges presented a Health Science Alumni Panel to give our students tips and advice about Nursing, Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, and Dental Hygiene programs.

Science in the News. LPC's Advanced Anatomy class was featured in a newspaper article: http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_28960318/livermore:-las-positas-cadaver-program-gives-powerful-anatomy-lesson. Qualifying students can perform cadaver dissection and prosection (dissection for teaching purposes)—rare activities at community colleges, where

instructors typically perform these tasks and students simply observe.

Musical Notes. President Russell recently performed as a guest pianist with the Livermore-Amador Symphony.

Olive Harvest. Horticulture students picked 434 pounds of olives from the LPC Olive Grove—a record high. They will use the bounty to make cold pressed, extra virgin olive oil. For sales information, please contact the Horticulture Program. Proceeds will support club activities as well as landscape improvements at LPC.

Thank you! LPC expresses gratitude to Safeway for its recent generous donation to our Veterans First Program.



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