

# key dates...

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

## November

15-24 Play *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, Nov. 15, 16, 22, 23 at 8 PM; Nov. 17, 24 at 2 PM, Mertes Center. Purchase tickets at [laspositascollege.edu/performingarts](http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts). Happy Thanksgiving! Holiday recess.

27-30

## December

4 Music Department Student Recital, 12:30 PM, Main Stage Theater. Free.  
7-8 *A Modern American Nutcracker*, Jim Hurley adaptation, LPC Dance and Orchestra Fall Performance\*  
8 Vocal Jazz Concert, LPC Vocal Jazz Ensemble, 3 PM\*  
12 Instrumental Fall Concert, LPC Orchestra & Wind Ensemble, 7:30 PM\*  
13 *Stories & Speeches*, LPC Speech Department Performance, 7 PM\*  
14 Jazz Night Concert, LPC Instrumental Jazz Combo, 8 PM\*  
14-20 Final Exams Period

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

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## College Kudos

### LPC/LLNL Seminar Series

Students and community members continue to benefit from a unique partnership between LPC and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory through the ongoing LLNL/LPC Science and Engineering Seminar Series, *Theory to Practice: How Science Gets Done*. About 160 people attended the November 6<sup>th</sup> seminar, *Biofuels: New Energy from Ancient Life* presented by Michael Thelen, Ph.D., Biochemist and Microbiologist, LLNL; and Rhona Stuart, Ph.D., Marine Microbiologist, LLNL. This talk illuminated research on ancient microbes as a renewable source of biofuels that can help us solve our most pressing energy challenges.

### Blood Drive

The LPC community collected enough blood to save up to 195 lives during last month's annual Student Health & Wellness Center and the Public Safety Club's American Red Cross Blood Drive. "Way to go LPC!" said Dayna Barbero PHN, MSN, FNP, Student Health & Wellness Center Site Administrator, ValleyCare Health Systems.

### Journalism Awards

The website for the *Express* student newspaper was honored as Sixth Place Best of Show for Enrollment Level 2 at the recent Associated Collegiate Press Conference. It also received an award as a finalist in the Online Pacesetter contest. "The awards are especially significant because LPC's student journalists are competing for honors with two-year and four-year colleges from the United States and Canada," said Instructor and Advisor Melissa Korber. "In the Enrollment Level 2, category, LPC was the only two-year college to take home the Best of Show award."

### Speech Awards

The soaring Talk Hawks took home 19 awards at the recent Northern California Championship Tournament. See the winning team in action at its performance of *Speeches and Stories* at 7:00 p.m. December 13<sup>th</sup> in the Mertes Center for the Arts.



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Chabot-Las Positas Community College District



Photo by Sharon Gach

## Congratulations to LPC's First Paramedics Class Graduates

A dozen students made college history on October 23rd as LPC's first Paramedics Graduating Class. The students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and include one 22-year-old woman and a man who holds a degree in international business from the University of California, Santa Barbara. They help meet the increasing community need for emergency services.

Attending the graduation ceremony were friends and families of the graduates, CLPCCD Chancellor Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D., and LPC administrators Interim President Janice Noble, Ph.D., Vice President Diana Rodriguez, and Interim Dean Lisa Everett, Ed.D. Special guests from the community included Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne, BART Board of Directors Member John McPartland, and representatives from the following offices: Congressman Eric Swalwell, Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan, California State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty.

LPC offers one of the few programs in California using the latest, state-of-the-art National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards curriculum. "We have patterned our program after the most progressive and most successful medical and nursing schools," said Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technicians Program Director Sebastian Wong. He acknowledged strong community connections for the program such as local hospitals, including ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton.

LPC's Paramedic Training Program is a fee supported, not-for-credit Community Services offering. For more information, please visit the website.

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



## President Finalist Named

At their regular meeting on October 15th, the Trustees of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District accepted the recommendation of Chancellor Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D., to make an offer of employment to Barry A. Russell, Ph.D. When a contract of employment is approved by the Trustees, Dr. Russell will become the sixth President of Las Positas College.

"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. We look forward to welcoming Barry to our organization," Chancellor Jackson said.

Dr. Russell is currently the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs in the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and 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 Austin in 1991 and 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.

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# Las Positas Connection

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



*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. -John Fitzgerald Kennedy*

## Thank You For Your Service

### LPC Holds 7th Annual Veterans Day Observance

For the seventh consecutive year, LPC held a Veterans Day Observance to honor our nation's veterans and thank them for their service. A flyover and landing of a Vietnam-era Huey helicopter under sunny skies signaled the start the November 7th event where members of the LPC and greater community gathered to honor veterans and, through guest speakers and presentations, learned more about the many ways veterans serve our country.

Chancellor Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D., a retired Colonel whose last overseas duty was in Iraq, welcomed everyone to the observance in the Mertes Center for the Arts. English Instructor Jim Ott, who served as the event master of ceremonies, presented an overview of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Marine Corps and Iraq War veteran Mike Dowling gave a presentation about serving with his military working dog, Rex. He and Rex served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and were part of the first group of Marine Corps K-9 units to operate on the front lines of combat since the Vietnam War. Following Mr. Dowling's presentation, Livermore Police Officer Al Grajeda demonstrated the special training and capabilities of service dogs, with the help of his 6-year-old German Shepard K-9 service dog, Fin.

After the presentations, veterans enjoyed a complimentary barbeque lunch and attendees had the opportunity to check out the Huey helicopter that landed earlier on the track. Taps by Granada High School Senior Duncan Cluff ended the event. LPC extends appreciation to student veteran Darlene Arrigo for her beautiful singing of the national anthem and the Travis Air Force Base Color Guard for the Presentation of Colors. Many thanks go to the following event sponsors: Las Positas College Veterans First Program, Knights of Columbus in Livermore, Blue Star Moms of Danville, Valley Veterans Foundation 25th Infantry Division Huey, and the Las Positas College Student Veterans Organization. Kudos to Veterans First Coordinator Todd Steffan for organizing this important event for our campus and community.



Up at the track, veterans answer questions about the Huey helicopter. From left are: Pat Leary, Rick Shafer (pilot), Dave Dean, and Ed Peters. Mr. Leary and Mr. Peters served together in Vietnam, with Mr. Leary as the Huey pilot and Mr. Peters as the mechanic. Their visit to LPC was the first time since the war that they were together in a Huey.



Livermore Police Officer Al Grajeda and his K-9 service dog, Fin, visit campus for a demonstration of service dogs in action.



One tradition at the annual Observance barbeque is for the youngest and oldest Marine to cut the cake.



Chancellor Jackson greets visitors arriving for the Veterans Day Observance.

*Photos by Mary Lauffer*



# Invisible Treasure a Visible Treat for Young Audiences



Shhh, say the fairies, don't let the hobgoblins hear that Fil, the brother fairy, does not believe in them. Photos by Mary Lauffer



A girl enrolled in LPC's Child Development Center Preschool Program volunteers to go onstage and help the hobgoblins make the invisible box appear. According to the hobgoblins, they need the "energy of a believing human" to make the box visible.

They giggled. They shrieked. They jumped up and down and shouted helpful directions. And, most of all, they had fun.

More than 300 area children were treated to the original play *Invisible Treasure* that encouraged interaction with the cast of 23 LPC student actors. In late October and early November, the cast took the show on the road to six elementary schools in Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin and also performed in the Mertes Center for the Arts, with one show for the LPC community including children at LPC's Child Development Center.

"It is magical watching my words come to life through my students," said Speech Instructor Janet Brehe Johnson who wrote, directed, and produced the play. "And, it is delightful to watch the children and hear their responses and musical laughter."

Ms. Brehe Johnson also wrote an information guide for elementary school teachers and provided questions they could ask the students after the performance.

Creating the play was a gift to audiences and the college. "I wanted to direct a play with fairies in it because I have always loved them," said Ms. Brehe Johnson. "I couldn't find a play that I was passionate about, so I decided to write my own." The result delighted audiences with its engaging plot and colorful characters.

"*Invisible Treasure* is a magical tale of a brother fairy who believes in nothing, and his sister fairy who believes in everything," Ms. Brehe Johnson explained. "They stumble upon an invisible box, which they hope is filled with treasure, and take a fun-filled journey trying to discover how to make the box visible and open it. The play humorously and interactively deals with the concepts of family and friendship, not judging a book by its cover, and believing in possibilities." When the box is finally opened, the characters are challenged to think about the true meaning of the word, "treasure."

Bravo to the talented LPC student cast, crew, and creator of *Invisible Treasure*—a true treasure for the college and community.

## LPC Theater Department Presents Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451

"Everyone must leave something behind when he dies, my grandfather said. A child or a book or a painting or a house or a wall built or a pair of shoes made. Or a garden planted. Something your hand touched some way so your soul has somewhere to go when you die, and when people look at that tree or that flower you planted, you're there...." - Fahrenheit 451

Before he died last year at the age of 91, Pulitzer Prize winning writer Ray Bradbury had left behind a legacy of works, the most famous of which was the prophetic, dystopian novel *Fahrenheit 451*. LPC's Theater Department is presenting the stage play version November 15, 16, 22, and 23 at 8 p.m. and November 17 and 24 at 2 p.m. in the Black Box Theater in the Mertes Center for the Arts. "We have been delighted

with the amount of interest in *Fahrenheit 451*," said Theater Instructor Wendy Wisely who is directing the play.

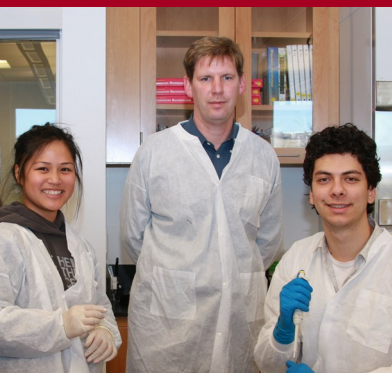
*Fahrenheit 451* depicts a bleak world embracing information control, surveillance, conformity, book burning, excessive television viewing, and the denial of independent thought. Its protagonist, Guy Montag, is a fireman whose job it is to start fires to destroy books and the houses that contain them. First published in 1953 during the era of McCarthyism, the play is particularly relevant today Ms. Wisely says.

"*Fahrenheit 451* is not about a totalitarian government that demands censorship through the burning of books but about a society that stops reading of its own accord," Ms. Wisely said.

"Although it was written in 1953, it is frightfully accurate in its predictions about what happens to a public that is overly focused on consumerism and easy entertainment rather than content and quality.... The future Bradbury warned about over 60 years ago is staring us in the face."

The production features scenic design by George Ledo and Mike Rinaldi, costume design by Christine Hornbake, and technical direction by Anne Kendall. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$8 for students, seniors, and staff. Tickets are available at the door (cash and checks only), at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com), or by calling 1-800-838-3006; parking is \$2 during the week and free on Saturday after 6 p.m. and all day on Sunday.

# Measure B Benefits Next Generation of Scientists Thrives in New Building



Students get a look at their own DNA in the Cell Biology class taught by Matthew Fitzgerald, Ph.D., center. After rinsing cheek cells from their mouths, students use polymerase chain reaction to amplify their DNA for analysis. Students Trang Nguyen of Castro Valley, left, and Emmad Ansari of Livermore prepare for the experiment.



Banaz Shwan of Pleasanton inspects fruit flies during what is known in the labs as "fly time"—the 10 weeks a student spends raising fruit flies to study their genetic mutations. This challenging experiment is a capstone project for Biology.



Morgan Samples of Dublin uses gel electrophoresis to separate molecules of DNA.



Like a plot from the *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* TV show, LPC biology students are immersed in cracking a crime. Given DNA evidence from two "suspects" and, using DNA finger printing techniques, students identify the criminal and solve the mystery. The scenario is made up, but the science is real—as is LPC's reputation as a destination college for science. The reasons are no mystery: highly qualified faculty and lab technician staff, rigorous curriculum, small class sizes with lots of one-on-one instruction, a track record of successful student transfer to four-year colleges and universities, and a new state-of-the art facility filled with cutting-edge equipment, thanks to voter approval of Measure B.

The 21,000 square-foot LEED Certified Science Technology II Building, celebrated at the September 17th Ribbon Cutting and Tour for new Measure B facilities, houses classroom and lab space that helps meet the growing demand for LPC's science programs. Located next to the original Science Building, which benefited from Measure B renovations, it contains four new "wet labs" for biology and a "dry lab" for engineering graphics.

"The new science building significantly supports student success and access by allowing us to schedule additional science lab courses," said Lisa Everett, Ed.D., Interim Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Public Safety. Science education meets the highest safety standards and supports the following science programs: Allied Health, Astronomy, Chemistry, Geology, Engineering, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Viticulture & Winery Technology, and Biological Sciences including Anatomy, Biology, Botany, Ecology, Microbiology, Physiology, and Zoology.

Students now have access to state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, preparing them for transfer and approximating what they will experience in industry settings. Dedicated faculty continue to work tirelessly to innovate, stay at the forefront of science, and adopt industry-level training to classes in traditional and emerging fields such as biotechnology and genomics.

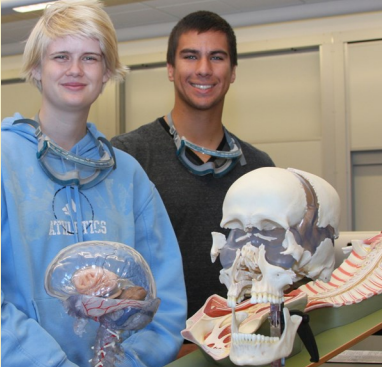
Proven LPC instructional models that encourage interdisciplinary collaboration were integrated into the expanded facilities, explained Biology Instructor Nan Ho who earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees at Stanford University. "One unique and well-loved aspect of the labs is dedicated student workrooms," said Ms. Ho. "Students congregate in these areas and thrive off the energy of other students. Plus, they get to interact with faculty and staff."

The building also houses a state-of-the-art greenhouse. "This is important to the field of biofuels and to the agricultural history of Livermore and the state," Ms. Ho said. Supporting the area's wine industry is the Viticulture & Winery Technology Enology Lab, dedicated to Neal Ely, Ph.D., Dean Emeritus of Academic Services (also known as "The Wine Dean") who was instrumental in shepherding the building from vision to reality.

Photos by Mary Lauffer



With guidance from Biology Instructor Jill Carbone, David Apoian of Livermore analyzes his gel electrophoresis used for a DNA fingerprinting experiment.



LPC acquired key anatomical models and created a human cadaver lab, providing essential training for programs including pre-nursing. Students Rhiannon Follenfant of Livermore and James Stover of Castro Valley display some of the models.



Students in a Zoology class taught by Instructor Jeffrey Judd, Ph.D., are "gowned and goggled" and ready to dissect a shark.