

LPC Brings Classes to the Community

Local educators are calling it a win-win partnership: LPC is bringing classes out into the community at two area high schools. This opportunity allows LPC to meet the community's demand for more classes and brings college courses closer to home for many residents in our service areas.

Instructor Candace Klaschus, Ph.D., will teach *Humanities 10: The American Style* at Dublin High School from 6:00 to 9:20 p.m., Tuesday evenings, from February 3rd to May 29th in Room J-105. Instructor Abby Hirashiki will teach *Psychology 1: General Psychology* at Pleasanton's Village High School from 6:00 to 9:40 p.m., Monday evenings, from February 2nd to May 29th, in the Multipurpose Room. Class registration is available at the high schools and at LPC's online Schedule of Classes.

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Happy New Year!

"And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been."

- Rainer Maria Rilke

LPC welcomes everyone back to campus for the new year and new semester, filled with new opportunities for success. The Spring 2015 semester begins January 20th. Students still have time to sign up for open classes and for late-start and fast-track classes. Please check the online Schedule of Classes for information.

New "Math Jam" Adds Up to Success



LPC is proud to be among the first California community colleges to offer a comprehensive, multi-level Math Jam program. Designed to help students achieve their math goals, Math Jam is a free, intensive, one-week math program offered the week prior to the start of the spring and fall semesters, in January and August. A total of 117 students have registered for LPC's first session, which runs from January 12th through 16th.

Math Jam helps students complete their degree or transfer faster, while introducing them to a community of support and free resources. Students work with faculty and tutors in a self-paced, fun, and supportive environment. LPC offers instruction at all levels: PreAlgebra, Algebra (Elementary and Intermediate), Statistics, and Trigonometry/PreCalculus. Students take math assessments on the first day of Math Jam and get personalized support to help them improve, explained Math Instructor Kristine Woods (in photo below, far left), who developed LPC's version of Math Jam during her sabbatical last semester. She cited many benefits of the program.

"Students can begin a math class ready to learn and confident that they are in the right class," she said. "And, if a student places one level higher at the end of the Math Jam program, it saves them a semester of time and doubles their chances of successfully completing a transfer-level math class."



Photos by Mary Laufer

LPC's Free Services Support Student Success

LPC offers students a unique combination of special programs and services above and beyond the classroom to support success for final exams and throughout the semester. Following is a partial list of opportunities for students, which contribute to success and to LPC's high transfer rate to four-year colleges and universities.



Peer tutoring is one of the many educational opportunities at LPC's Tutorial Center.

Tutorial Center. Last semester, thousands of LPC students logged more than 15,000 hours in LPC's active Tutorial Center. Students can meet for class projects, get both drop-in and scheduled tutoring from peers and instructors, and reserve a room for study or meetings. Online tutoring is also available.

Prep2Pass. The Tutorial Center and Associated Students of LPC sponsor Prep2Pass, a popular two-day tutoring event the week before finals. Tutors were available in the Tutorial Center on December 10th and 11th to help about 425 students prepare for exams. Complimentary pizza, snacks, and drinks helped fuel students' success.

Reading and Writing Center. Hurrah for RAW! The Reading and Writing (RAW) Center helps hundreds of students each semester, and offers email tutoring support during finals week. English and English-as-a-Second-Language Instructors provide in-person and online assistance for writing and reading assignments for any class and for transfer and scholarship statements.

Open Math Lab. The Open Math Lab, located in the Integrated Learning Center, offers many free services to all LPC math students, including drop-in math help, study groups, and workshops. Each day, more than 300 students take advantage of the lab, which is staffed by full- and part-time LPC mathematics instructors.

Math X Program. The highly innovative Math X Program

gives students alternative ways to learn mathematics, and instructors provide continuous, personalized feedback, intervention, and assistance. The program is designed for students who want to work at their own pace, need more time to take tests, or want to reduce math anxiety.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Support. Located in the Integrated Learning Center, LPC's ESL support program is staffed by ESL instructors who assist students with academic language skills, including reading, writing, grammar, and oral communication.

Online Learning and Blackboard. Help is always just a click away for students who take LPC's online and hybrid courses, which use Blackboard, a virtual classroom. Students enrolled in Spring 2015 online and hybrid courses can attend an on-campus or a live, virtual orientation.

Computer Center. No home computer? No problem. With more than 100 workstations, the Computer Center is available to students as an open lab with Internet-connected computers and technical assistance from knowledgeable staff.

Library. LPC's library houses computers, extensive research materials and resources, and also offers short courses to help students improve their research skills.

Relaxation Breaks. Ommm.... On December 9th and 10th, students learned relaxation and breathing exercises to help manage stress during 30-minute Relaxation Breaks, sponsored by the Counseling Office.

De-Stress Event. Ahhh.... LPC's Student Health and Wellness Center offered free chair massages, stress management resources, and final exam survival tips on December 2nd, empowering our students to "Keep Calm and Carry On."



Photos by Mary Laufer

RAW Coordinator and English Instructor Richard Dry tutors a student in reading.

LPC to Host Basketball State Championships



Mary Lauffer

Exciting news from The Nest! The California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA) has selected LPC to host the 2016 and 2017 CCCCCAA Men's and Women's Basketball State Championships; the 2016 tournaments are scheduled for March 11th-13th.

LPC's Dean of Behavioral Sciences, Business and Athletics, Dyan Miller, was delighted to announce the news. "Every year, the best community college teams come together to compete for a championship title. Las Positas is excited that these student-athletes who have

worked hard all season long to get to this point have an opportunity to showcase their talent and skills at an outstanding community college venue. We look forward to being the host college for 2016 and 2017."

LPC was chosen in part for its state-of-the-art athletic facility, known as "The Nest" for LPC's teams, the Hawks. The facility houses instructional and exercise areas, an indoor track, faculty and staff offices, locker rooms, team rooms, two Fitness Centers, and an athletic training room.

LPC News Notes: Award, Alum, Africa Aid, Appreciation

LPC Advances Computer Job Skills. LPC Computing Studies Instructor John Gonder and Chabot College Instructor Wayne Phillips have been awarded a grant to create new Network Protocol Analysis curriculum, preparing students with the latest technology. The curriculum, which will be shared with other colleges, will develop valuable job skills to identify, diagnose, and resolve modern, complex application, network, and client problems. The grant was awarded by Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) / Digital Media of the California Community Colleges system.

Talk Hawks Win Second Place in Tourney Named after Alum. LPC's Talk Hawks captured second place in the Community College Sweepstakes at the Birney Young Burning Passion Tournament held at University of California, Berkeley on December 6th. The tournament was named after former LPC Talk Hawk, Birney Young, who transferred to UC Berkeley and helped establish the speech

team there. Mr. Young is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the Communications Department at the University of Pittsburgh through an Irvis Fellowship for outstanding students.

Students Help Save Children in Africa. Students in Sociology Instructor Sarah Thompson's *Global Change* class have launched a campaign to aid children who lost their parents to the Ebola crisis in Africa. The students have partnered with the Save the Children organization to raise funds. People are encouraged to visit the students' website and donate at <http://reneecassara.wix.com/ebolafundraiser>. Thanks to all donors!

Appreciation from CalWORKs. LPC's CalWORKs Program thanks the many donors whose generous gifts helped spread holiday cheer to CalWORKs students and their families. Please learn more by reading the program's newsletter at <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/calworks/documents/PostHolidayCelebrationNewsletter.pdf>.

key dates...

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

January

- 19 Holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20 Spring 2015 semester instruction begins

February

- 5 Faculty Showcase, 7 PM, Main Stage, Mertes Center, free*
7 College Day; *please see article at right*
13-16 Holiday, Presidents' Day
21 Music Teachers' Association of California Master Class, 2-4 PM, Black Box, Mertes Center, free*

**Ticket info at laspositascollege.edu/performingarts.*

Parking permits are required at all times on campus.

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

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

Veterans Honor President Russell



Diana Rodriguez

Student veterans honor LPC President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D., for his support of veterans at the December 9th CLPCCD Board of Trustees meeting.

Attn: High School Seniors! Save the Date for College Day

High school seniors and their parents are invited to LPC's annual College Day, an informational event to help students and their families plan for college. College Day will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on February 7th in the Physical Education Complex. Last year, a record-breaking crowd of more than 1,100 high school seniors and their parents attended. Seniors are asked to RSVP for the event at <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/studentservices/collegeday.php>.

Staff News

New Employees. Donna Alaoen has joined the President's Office as the Administrative Assistant, and Sheri Moore is the new Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Administrative Services.

Community Service. Scott Miner, Welding Instructor and Director of Student Life, has been elected as a Chairperson for the Alameda County Arts Commission.

Athletics News

Soccer. Three student athletes on LPC's Men's Soccer team made the Sophomore Showcase on December 6th: Oscar Armenta, Efrin Bonilla, and Ryan Gollott. Representatives from four-year colleges and universities attended to recruit students.

Basketball. Get schedules and the latest news about conference games at <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/Athletics/index.php>.



3000 Campus Hill Drive Livermore CA 94551-7623 | PH 925.424.1000 | www.laspositascollege.edu
Chabot-Las Positas Community College District