



# Las Positas Connection

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

## LPC Offers the Most Summer Classes Ever

LPC is celebrating an abundance of good news during its 40th anniversary year. One highlight is the summer class schedule—the largest in LPC history. After years of budget cuts, the state has increased funding to community colleges, which means more classes and more opportunities for students. Please visit the website for class schedules.

## Thank You, Scholarship Sponsors!

Thanks to the generosity of scholarship sponsors, LPC students get a helping hand as they strive to reach their academic goals. At LPC's May 12th Annual Student Scholarship Ceremony, 351 scholarships from 97 donors were awarded to 215 students, with a total value of about \$160,000. A capacity crowd of almost 500 people filled the Main Stage Theater of the Mertes Center for the Arts for the event, which grows each year.

## Congratulations, Class of 2015!



Photos by Mary Laurier

Jubilant grads snapped selfies, waved to cheering moms and dads, and hugged their instructors and friends at LPC's 25th Annual Commencement Ceremony on May 30th. Setting an attendance record high, more than 1,470 graduates, staff, faculty, administrators, trustees, honored guests, friends, and proud family members packed the Physical Education Complex and overflow facility for the 10 a.m. ceremony. There were upwards of 900 applications for degrees and certificates.

Congressman Eric Swalwell (top left and with students in middle top photo) presented the commencement address, inspiring the graduates and challenging them to solve problems facing our world today. LPC President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D., welcomed the audience and presented the Friend of the College Award to Bob and Joyce Shapiro (lower right). District Chancellor Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D., (top right) addressed the graduates, instructing them to always believe in themselves. Valedictorian Katharine Lai (top middle photo, far right) of Pleasanton, a national Speech Championships award winner, captivated the crowd with her entertaining and passionate address. Student Trustee Eric Bolin is on the far left in the top middle photo. Remarks and addresses were also presented by Student Body President Rafi Ansari (top middle photo, second from right), Academic Senate President Thomas Orf, Ph.D., Classified Senate Co-President Frances DeNisco, Foundation Board Chair Lynn Seppala, Ph.D., VP of Student Services Diana Z. Rodriguez, Interim VP of Academic Services James Wright, Ph.D., and CLPCCD Board of Trustees President Donald L. "Dobie" Gelles. Thanks to everyone who made commencement a memorable and successful celebration!

### In this issue

- *Summer Classes*
- *Thanks to Sponsors*
- *Commencement*
- *Résumé Builders*
- *Transfer Success*
- *\$5.9 Million Grant*
- *Water Polo Coach*
- *Athletics Awards*
- *Key Dates and Events*

# LPC Opportunities Boost Résumés and Transfer

*LPC offers many opportunities for education and experience that extend beyond the classroom. The following events provide occasions for our students to work one-on-one with mentors, hone presentation skills, share their talents, build their résumés, and increase their chances of transferring to the college of their choice.*



## Students Present Original Science Research

LPC students benefit from a rare opportunity at a community college: conducting original research and presenting it at a professional-level poster session. On May 19th, LPC's 4th Undergraduate Science Research Poster Session featured 63 posters, representing the work of more than 140 students in fields such as biology, chemistry, marine biology, math, microbiology, psychology, and zoology. Many thanks go to Lawrence Livermore National Security, which generously funded the printing of the professional-quality posters.

## Students Launch "TED Talks"

What do cloning, compost, and nuclear reactors have in common? They were all topics in LPC's first Student Seminar Series—presentations inspired by the popular TED Talks. On May 5th, students in a variety of majors—from engineering to kinesiology—shared their passions and ideas with an audience of students and faculty in this high-energy, supportive student-organized event. Faculty members served as mentors to each presenting student. The event was sponsored by the Biology Department, Biology Club, and Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society.

## Honors Students Lauded

Students in LPC's Honors Program gave presentations at the May 15th Annual Honors Transfer Symposium. Each student worked with a faculty mentor. The projects explored topics in chemistry, botany, anatomy, video game analysis, and ecology. Students were lauded for completing this milestone in the Honors Program. Students who are transferring this year will attend UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and UC San Diego.

## Mentoring Supports STEM

Women students majoring in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) now have a new program to support their success: the LPC Women in STEM Mentoring Program. A May 7th inaugural event brought together students with experienced mentors. The keynote speaker was Heather Whitely, Ph.D., a physicist with the Design Division at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Many thanks go to the mentors and co-sponsor, the American Association of University Women.

## Business Club Wins 4th Place in the State, Competing with UCs and CSUs



At a recent conference, LPC's Business Club placed fourth in the state for overall performance, competing with teams from two- and four-year colleges including UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC San Diego. LPC's team of 17 members won 27 medals—the most the club has ever won in this

competition. The conference was presented by California Phi Beta Lambda, a state chapter of Future Business Leaders of America. Congratulations to the team and to club advisor Business Instructor Rajeev Chopra (second row, third from right).



# LPC Programs are Catalysts for Transfer Success

*In One Organic Chemistry Class, Over 80% of Transferring Students are Offered Spots at Top UCs; Seven Accepted to UC Berkeley*

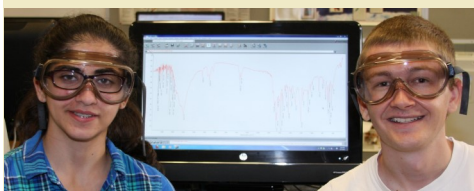


Photos by Mary Lauffer

Instructor Mike Ansell, Ph.D., works with Brandon Yee and Anne Grace Dizon who will be transferring to UC Berkeley and UCLA, respectively.

will transfer to UC San Diego; four will attend UC Davis; and one will transfer to UC Santa Cruz. The remaining students, in a class of 21, will transfer to other colleges and universities, enter the workforce, or continue their education at LPC. A winning mixture of elements is a catalyst for the transfer success: motivated students, outstanding instruction and curriculum, small class size, all labs taught by faculty, and state-of-the-

art equipment and facilities—thanks in large part to voter-approved Measure B. Of the class's 16 transferring students, seven were accepted to UC Berkeley. Following are the students' transfer choices: four chose UC Berkeley; two will attend UCLA; two



A Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR) is used to identify functional groups in organic molecules. Nadia Hashoush and Mitch Reed are both transferring to UC Davis.

academic and government research labs," said Chemistry Instructor Mike Ansell, Ph.D., who received the 2013 Outstanding Community College Faculty/Scholar Award from the California Section of the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Ansell notes that Chemistry at LPC emphasizes reducing toxicity to people and our environment. The labs—equipped with individual fume hoods—are not only safe for students, but they also offer learning opportunities about how students can bring safety and sustainability to their future workplace and to products they may one day develop. Students express gratitude for their instructors and for the opportunity to attend LPC. "I really like the small classes and the teachers," said Francis Apolinario, who is transferring to UC Davis and plans to attend medical school. "The teachers are really great and approachable. Plus, LPC is a lot cheaper (than other colleges)." The photographs shown here feature transfer students and Measure B-funded equipment they use in Dr. Ansell's class.



The Chemistry Lab's newest instrument is the Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS), which can analyze mixtures of compounds to identify each component by its retention time, molecular mass, and fragmentation pattern. Thomas Chan (left), Nicole Torquato, and Yone Phar Lin will all transfer to UC Berkeley this fall.



A Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (NMR) helps identify the structures of organic molecules—the principle technique routinely used by organic chemists around the world. James Bengé (back left) and Emmry Stimson (front right) will attend UC San Diego. Kauhleen Mangayan (back right) and Francis Apolinario (front left) are transferring to UC Davis.

# key dates...

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

## June

15-July 23 6-Week Summer Session

15-Aug. 6 8-Week Summer Session

## July

23-26 *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,*  
Outdoor Amphitheater.  
Fun for the whole family!\*

## August

17 Fall 2015 Semester Instruction Begins



*\*Ticket info at [laspositascollege.edu/performingarts](http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts).  
Parking permits are required at all times on campus.*

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## LPC and Partners Win \$5.9 Million Grant to Serve Region

LPC and its educational partners have been awarded a \$5.9 million grant from the California Career Pathways Trust (CCPT) program, which is the largest program of its kind in the nation. The award is for the Tri-Valley Educational Collaborative (TEC): Expanding/Enhancing Dual Enrollment & Middle College Opportunities grant proposal. Our partners include the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program and the Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin school districts. The CCPT program blends academic and career technical education, connects employers with schools, and trains students for jobs in high-demand fields, such as health care, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and software development.

## LPC Names Coach for New Men's Water Polo Team

LPC welcomes Robert Arroyo as the first head coach of the new Men's Water Polo team, which begins its first competitive season this fall. Mr. Arroyo previously served as a coach with the Lamorinda Water Polo Club, CSU Long Beach, and other clubs. A former competitor on USA Youth, Junior, and National Water Polo teams, Mr. Arroyo played professionally in Europe, and prior to that, he was a four-year starter and team captain at Cal.

## Athletes of the Year Honored

Hawk pride filled the room at the Annual End-of-Year Athletic Banquet and Awards night. Soccer player Ryan Gollott and diver Valentina Barbalinardo were named the male and female athletes of the year. Kyle Bachand and Madison Souja won awards as male and female scholar athletes of the year. Lynn Pidoli, a member of the Women's Swim and Dive team, was recognized as the only three-sport athlete in LPC history. Ms. Pidoli not only ran Cross Country for LPC in 2004, but in 1984, she was a member of the Women's Soccer team. A Livermore native, a cancer survivor, and a grandmother of three, Ms. Pidoli is described as "an excellent teammate, role model, and supporter of everything LPC." Congratulations to all of our student athletes and coaches on a great year. Go, Hawks!

Photos Courtesy of Athletics



Male Athlete of the Year  
Ryan Gollott



Female Athlete of the Year  
Valentina Barbalinardo



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