

LA VIE COLLEGIENNE

LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE'S STUDENT RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1924

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Studying abroad during COVID-19

LIAM SCHMIDT '22
STAFF WRITER

Decisions regarding the safety and feasibility of resuming study abroad programs are frequently changing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The unprecedented nature of the situation has made it difficult for decision-makers to conclude with certainty which programs will run in the spring semester, and which will not. Presently, many of the decisions regarding the continuation of programs occur on a case-by-case basis.

To complicate matters further, some of LVC's partner schools have already canceled their programs for the spring semester of 2021, like the University of Waikato in New Zealand.

"I am so disappointed for our many students who planned to study in New Zealand this spring," Jill Russell, director of global education, said. "However, this pandemic is real, [and] I understand their desire to decrease risk by limiting exposure from students arriving from abroad."

For Russell, the uncertainty of the situation has made it difficult to promote programs that typically run in the spring semester.

"I think it's a little insensitive for me to go into a Zoom class and be like, 'hey, everyone, think about study abroad' when we're in the middle of a global pandemic, and we're being told not to travel," she said.

These programs are essential to the success of many students at LVC. Even

though semesters abroad are not required to graduate, foreign language majors often need to study in these immersive environments in order to meet their credit requirements.

As such, Russell has been working closely with students who have already expressed interest in study abroad to help determine their options. Decisions regarding their ability to travel depend on several factors.

"Most important are country-level risk and program-level risk," Russell said. "It's divided out where we look at travel bans, the availability of U.S. consulates and embassies in country in an emergency situation, the availability of a student to obtain required immigration documents, and [other] restrictions."

The process of reevaluating the situation in each country of interest to LVC occurs on a daily basis, with Russell reviewing new information as it becomes available. All decisions regarding these programs are prioritizing students' well-being, and Russell is working to provide safe alternatives as long as students feel comfortable leaving the country.

"We want to make sure you're making the right choice for your health and safety because that's the most important," Russell said.

In addition to semester programs, LVC also offers several short-term summer programs, which Russell has been promoting more regularly.

COVID-19 cases on the rise in PA, LVC remains untouched

MERIDYTH SANDERS '21
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

LVC is one of just a handful of colleges in the state without any positive COVID-19 tests on campus, even after seven weeks of in-person classes.

Nearby schools such as Messiah University, Gettysburg College, DeSales University and Albright College have all reported at least one COVID-19 case on campus since returning for in-person classes. However, LVC has managed to avoid any reported cases since reopening for students for the fall 2020 semester.

President James MacLaren attri-



Photo by: Kayleigh Johnson

ABOVE: Mask reminders signage around campus

butes this success largely to the students and staff at LVC.

"Our location also helps, as we are

in a less densely populated region of the state," MacLaren said. "As you have likely read about or heard on the news, many of the campus outbreaks can be traced back to unmasked large social gatherings often involving alcohol. These have not been happening to the same extent at LVC."

There are also key differences in LVC's protective measures against COVID-19 that may play a role in the College's success in keeping the virus at bay for the time being.

"Notable differences at LVC compared to a number of other schools have been our contact tracing, isolation and quarantine strategies," Ma-

claren said. "We start isolation and quarantine protocols along with contact tracing immediately rather than waiting for a positive test."

A more difficult aspect of preventing the virus is determining when a student or employee should get tested. LVC is only testing symptomatic students at this time. Although not tested regularly, students and staff are required to monitor their health conditions daily and report any sudden changes via an online symptom tracker.

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VALE plans 2020 conference

EMILY BAINBRIDGE '21
STAFF WRITER

Despite the pandemic, LVC still plans on running its annual VALE conference.

VALE hosts an on-campus conference every fall that consists of guest speakers, workshops and opportunities for students to network. This

year will be the 16th conference, and it will take place via Zoom rather than in-person.

Professor Jeffrey Snyder, chair of the music department and director of the music business concentration, is currently working alongside LVC students to plan out the logistics of the conference. Among these students is Brandon Vance, who is this year's stu-

dent-elected president for the conference.

"This year is different," Vance said. "Never before have we been in a situation where an in-person conference is not an option."

Vance went on to say that an online conference does, however, have its advantages.

"We can get speakers we never

thought possible," Vance said. "There are no restrictions when it comes to travel or cost."

The plan this year is to draw on the vast network of alumni who are in the industries. The focus will be on the Media Industries: Post COVID-19.

Guest speakers will be announced later in the semester. The conference is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 21.

DigiVal pursues creative approaches

LAUREN SCHROTT '21
STAFF WRITER

DigiVal, a club for students interested in technology and emerging media, embraces challenges faced in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With social distancing guidelines being enforced, it can be difficult to put a group together for club meetings. Despite the challenges, DigiVal

is facing the problem head-on.

"We are forced to be more creative this semester when planning DigiVal events," Kayla Shuman, a senior digital communications major and club president, said. "For events that involve the vinyl cutter, heat press, laser cutter or 3D printers, we need to limit the number of people due to the small room sizes. We are thinking about doing time slots for events that

use these machines to ensure that only a few people are in the room at a time."

DigiVal is a predominantly tech run club, with many workshops taking place on students' computers. Coding, Photoshop and videography workshops are all ideas the club has presented thus far.

"Holding workshops outside is another great option that we are con-

sidering," Shuman said. "We are still working out all the logistics but are looking forward to continuing to hold events in a safe and engaging manner."

DigiVal is always looking for new members. If interested, students can contact Kayla Shuman at ks022@lvc.edu to request more information.

International students take distance learning to next level

MEGAN FINLAN '21
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

While many students at LVC have decided to remain remote in light of COVID-19, international students are taking distance learning across oceans.

Currently, LVC has three full-time students completing classes while outside the U.S. Similar to students living inside the American borders, these students are completing course work through asynchronous assignments, recordings and Zoom lectures.

"The students have experienced

many challenges, including time zone difficulties and technology failures," Terri Rosenberg, assistant professor of English, said. "However, it definitely helped that all three students are seniors, and they were familiar with several of their professors and LVC."

For one international student, distance learning isn't the only challenge she's had to overcome. My Ho, a senior English and environmental science major, is still in New Zealand after studying abroad in the spring 2020 semester. Due to border closures, Ho has been unable to return home to Hanoi, Vietnam.

However, despite being unable to return home or travel back to campus, Ho is remaining dedicated to her classes and is making the best out of an unexpected situation.

"The biggest challenge so far is feeling out of touch with the materials and the people in my class," Ho said. "I'm taking three science classes at the moment and all of them require lab attendance. I couldn't perform the experiments myself, and I have to watch the lectures in recording, which makes it difficult for me to relate to the lessons."

Ho explained that the aspects of

being a real "student," like attending in-person classes, meeting up with friends, taking weekend trips and working part-time are what she misses the most about life at LVC.

"At the moment, I feel like I'm more of a part-time student who spends most of her days inside the house and focusing more on having the best time here in New Zealand," Ho said.

While COVID-19 continues to impact what college life looks like in the U.S. and internationally, all three students hope to return to campus this spring if protocols allow.

Winter registration is now open

EMILY BAINBRIDGE '21
STAFF WRITER

LVC will offer a winter term from Jan. 4 to Jan. 24, 2021.

Students have eight different courses to choose from. All of them are online only and require registration through AccessLVC. Priority registration for winter courses will be given to LVC students through Oct. 30; visiting students may register thereafter.

"We have seen more and more demand for our summer courses from students looking to catch up or get ahead in their classes," Jeremy Maisto, associate dean of academic success and registrar, said. "We also know that many students reconsider their major after the fall semester and these courses can help students explore a new discipline before starting the spring semester."

Courses available include the following: Modern Business Organiza-

tions, Principles of Macroeconomics, Introduction to Literature, African Politics and History, Introduction to Law and Justice, General Psychology, Introduction to Sociology and Elementary Spanish Level 1.

Further information on each course can be found on LVC's website under the academics tab. Prices are \$485 per credit for undergraduates and \$673 per credit for graduate students.



Black Lives Matter protests in Annville

LAUREN SWISHER '22
STAFF WRITER

An LVC professor has helped to lead Black Lives Matter protests in Annville since this summer.

Dr. Michael Schroeder, associate professor of history, has organized weekly BLM protests since June.

"We are holding our nation to its foundational promise that all people are politically equal before the state and have the right to equal protection of the law," Schroeder said.

The protests started in early June in response to the killing of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police and ran daily until July 4. On July 5, Schro-

eder organized a public community oration of Frederick Douglass' famous 1852 speech, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"

"All lives can't matter until Black lives matter," Schroeder said.

Schroeder's protest sign also utilizes the same phrase after passing motorists repeatedly shouted, "All lives matter" to the protesters.

The protests run on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4-5 p.m. in the Annville Town Square. LVC Democrats also sponsor the protests. Schroeder said anyone who shares the view that Black Lives Matter and pledges to remain peaceful is welcome to participate.

LVC's Baby Lab: Navigating the pandemic

LIAM SCHMIDT '22
STAFF WRITER

Social experiments at LVC are continuing despite the challenges of COVID-19.

The Baby Lab, which specializes in studies on infant language acquisition, has adapted readily, shifting its focus this semester in order to continue its research.

"Several studies are on pause for the time being, and that's fine," Dr. Rachel Albert, associate professor of psychology and director of the Baby Lab, said. "We want to be maximizing the safety of people, not exposing, especially young children, to anything."

Although new data collection has been halted momentarily, Albert and her team have resorted to developing new studies and drawing novel conclusions from previous experiments and data files, specifically videos.

"COVID has shut down just about all face-to-face data collection on campus, which is hard, but my lab at least—we have kind of a backlog, and there's always things you can go back and do," Albert said.

Connections with other universities have also proven useful as Albert and her team continue their research. For example, Michigan State University has provided access to its data files, which have increased the possibility of further study on infant language

acquisition during the pandemic.

Sorting through past data samples is tedious and time-consuming, but researchers at the Baby Lab have been successful in developing new studies and actively contributing to the literature in the field. This semester, they have already submitted work to several conferences.

For Albert, watching the development of her research assistants and taking them to present at these conferences is the most enjoyable aspect of running the Baby Lab.

"That's the fun part for me, watching a student who just came to me and is like 'babies are cool and I want to study them' go to like 'I can hold my own at these academic conferences, present this research competently, and get into a Ph.D. program,'" she said. "That's a really cool path to take them through."

Although most conferences have already transitioned to an online format, Albert looks forward to when they will resume in-person and her students can experience the wow-factor of presenting academic research.

More information and current research at the Baby Lab can be found here: lvcbabylab.weebly.com. Anyone interested in participating in studies can use the listed form to sign up, although data collection will not resume until after LVC rescinds its no-guest policy.

LVC students and the local community support police

BAILEY THUMM '22
STAFF WRITER

LVC students and the local community are striving to reunite people to support police by depoliticizing the career.

Every Thursday from 3-6 p.m., since Sept. 10, a group of local community members have rallied at the Annville Square to show their support for law enforcement. Organizers say the rally is apolitical and anyone is welcome to join.

LVC students along with some faculty and staff are working on creating a "Back the Police" walk around campus to emphasize the need for supporting police without having politics involved.

"Law enforcement is being used as a political football when the U.S. Policing should be apolitical but community-based," Dr. Chris Dolan, professor of political science, said. "Law enforcement, like every institution, must be a reflection of civil society and the rule of law in our democracy. We have to find an appropriate balance between civil rights/liberties and public safety. We must depoliticize our law enforcement and build stronger communities and institutions so everyone can thrive."

LVC's COVID-19 guidelines urge students not to attend off-campus events, so this event would give students the opportunity to express support for police in a safe manner. Details of the walk have not yet been released.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

The deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot is Oct. 27, at 5 p.m.

Election day is Nov. 3:

Your mail-in ballot must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on election day and received by your county election office by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, for your vote to be counted

Check your voting status:

<http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx>

Track your ballot:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/ballottracking.aspx>

COVID-19 cases on campus (continued from page 1)

Students who report COVID-related symptoms are treated at Shroyer Health Center, where medical staff determine whether or not a test should be administered.

"I recognize that these protocols can be exhausting, and we all want lives to return to normal, MacLaren said. "I would just like to add that it is so important to not let our guard down and to continue with the diligence we have shown thus far."

The College will continue to uphold the regulations and procedures for contact tracing, quarantine policies and isolation if a student or staff

member on campus tests positive for the virus, as recommended by state and federal public health agencies.

To monitor LVC's COVID-19 tests and cases, read the dashboard at www.lvc.edu/lvcforward, which is updated daily Monday - Friday.

"I am so grateful that nearly everyone on campus has followed the Community Covenant and looked out not only for themselves, but also each other," MacLaren said. "Masking, social distancing and handwashing will continue to be critical practices until the pandemic is over."

LVC welcomes two writers in October

SPENCER PATERICK '21
ASSISTANT EDITOR

LVC's English department continues its writer series, only this semester it's virtual; in October, LVC welcomes Lauren Francis-Sharma and W.M. Akers.

Lauren Francis-Sharma is the author of "Book of the Little Axe," which was published in May 2020, and "Til the Well Runs Dry," which debuted in 2014. "Til the Well Runs Dry" was chosen as an O, The Oprah Magazine Summer Reading Pick and highly recom-

mended by the New York Times, USA Today, Essence Magazine and People Magazine.

Francis-Sharma is the daughter of Trinidadian immigrants and refers to the Caribbean in much of her writing. She is the owner of D.C. Writers Room, a co-working space dedicated to both published and aspiring writers.

She is also the assistant director of Bread Loaf Writers' Conference at Middlebury College. Her short story "Demented" is featured in the anthology "Us Against Alzheimer's: Stories of

Family Love and Faith" edited by Marita Golden.

Francis-Sharma will be on campus virtually on Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 12:30-1:45 p.m., to speak to some of the English classes, but students from other majors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

She will also be participating in a Zoom call at 7 p.m. in which she will read some of her work and answer questions.

W.M. Akers is a novelist, playwright and game designer. Akers is the au-

thor of the mystery novels "Westside" and "Westside Lights," as well as the creator of the bestselling games Deadball: Baseball with Dice and Comrades: A Revolutionary RPG; and the curator of the history newsletter Strange Times. Born in Nashville, he spent thirteen years in New York before moving to Philadelphia in 2019.

Akers will present virtually to students from all majors on Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. He'll also present to students on Oct. 27, at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

Baking with Care

LAUREN SWISHER '21
STAFF WRITER

Ted's Bar & Grill in Annville is featuring a sweet treat, thanks to an LVC alumna.

Using her degree in digital communications, Carolyn Enigk created her own brand of cupcakes called Baking with Care along with the slogan "baked with care; made with love."

"Baking with Care was a name craft-

ed by my best friend when we were back in high school," Enigk said.

Enigk picks three flavors for cupcakes each month, with the addition of two alcoholic flavors for the adult menu. She also picks one fruit topping for cheesecake.

Students can follow @bakingwithcare on Instagram for updates on Baking with Care and new flavors Enigk will introduce at Ted's Bar & Grill.

Returning to diamond during COVID-19

SPENCER PATERICK '21
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dutchmen Fall Ball comes with new challenges.

Baseball is a sport known for having players spaced far apart, but this year the idea of distancing has a whole new meaning. While the term social distancing has become the norm since early March, the baseball team has embraced the idea in order to ensure the health of LVC as a whole.

"The baseball team has taken adversity in stride," Daymond Zweizig, a senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman, said. "I don't hear a lot of complaining about mask wearing or the distancing measures in place. Everybody is really happy to just be playing baseball and seeing everyone on campus. Leaders on our team have also done a great job of building up the young guys at practice and lift. I'm proud of how we are doing so far."

The baseball team is following Head Coach Jonas Fester's advice of wearing masks while on the field during both practice and team scrimmages. Not only is the team wearing masks, but it is also encouraging students and parents of players to watch team scrimmages via Instagram live in order to limit in-person contact at the field.

"I would say the biggest challenge

concerning the COVID-19 restrictions is regarding team camaraderie," Conor Smith, a sophomore middle infielder, said. "With social distancing guidelines and limited groups, it has been harder for our team to build strong relationships with one another like we have in the past. To deal with this adversity, our team has been trying to be very electronically vocal by reaching out via text and staying active in our team group chat."

In order to maintain the safety of everyone on campus, athletes and students alike have had to make sacrifices outside of the classroom. Virtual communication methods such as Zoom and GroupMe have become the best way to communicate during the pandemic.

"One of the biggest challenges we've faced this fall is incorporating the freshmen into the existing team in the middle of a pandemic," Zweizig said. "We can't be as close or hangout in the ways we'd like, so we have to make an extra effort to reach out to teammates."

Players and fans alike are hoping for a more normal spring season, but for now, students should continue to wear masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines that have been set forth by LVC and the community.

LAX back in action



Photos by: Zach Kime

ABOVE: The men's lacrosse team is back to practice. The team has been conditioning and lifting weights this fall but is now in full gear hoping to return to action this spring. The team returns 29 members from last year's squad; nine freshmen and two transfers round out the roster.

Global Conversation Hour

October 23 at 3 p.m.

Bishop Library Atrium

Turkish and Albanian Culture

by Dr. Valbona Hoxha

Global Workforce Trends

by Assistant Dean Kimberlee Josephson