

# LA VIE COLLEGIENNE

LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE'S STUDENT RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1924

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## Future of LVC DEIB

**JESS BENNINGER '26**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

LVC prides itself on its diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) department.

Following the departure of Khalil Brim, a post-graduate fellow and LVC alumni loved by students, many members of LVC's campus are wondering how the future of the DEIB office will look.

Currently, the DEIB department is comprised of Dr. Felicia Brown-Haywood, the vice president of diversity, equity and inclusive excellence, and Annesha Edwards-Carter, director of diversity, equity and inclusive excellence. Brown-Haywood assures community members that the DEIB office can continue operation with two staff members.

"DEIB work is the responsibility and expectation of every member of our campus community," Brown-Haywood said. "The DEIB division partners with units across campus to facilitate strategic initiatives and programming."

Brown-Haywood also shared

that on-campus research is being conducted to assess the needs of the student body and DEIB office.

"Dr. Chris Bijoux's SWOT analysis will help the college understand and make decisions about appropriate staffing numbers, roles and responsibilities," Brown-Haywood said.

According to LVC President Dr. James MacLaren, the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis will provide more information regarding the College's next steps in DEIB.

"The results of this independent analysis will be applicable to the whole of campus and not siloed to the DEIB administrative area," MacLaren said. "We expect the SWOT analysis to be uncomfortable and deeply informative about how the College should move forward."

Many students have their own ideas about how to improve the commitment to DEIB on LVC's campus.

"More people should be hired for the DEIB office, but it shouldn't just

fall on faculty or administration," Caeleb Smith, a junior English and creative writing double major, said. "The students should have a say on who LVC hires to fill in spots for the DEIB office because student opinions matter."

Smith also commented on the importance of the DEIB department more generally.

"DEIB shouldn't have to be seen as an 'extra' resource on campus—it should be viewed as a necessary resource that everyone, not just BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students, should be aware of," Smith said. "DEIB is important in our society; not giving it the attention it deserves promotes the idea that it doesn't exist or isn't important to know and learn about. People cannot and should not walk around campus assuming that DEIB isn't an important part of our society because it completely invalidates the lives of others and disregards their existence as a whole."

With all of these suggested changes in mind, LVC's administration assures that it is working hard to promote



Photo by: Jess Benninger

ABOVE: The DEIB office is located on the lower level of Bishop Library.

DEIB on campus.

"I want to note that the work of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging is the responsibility of each member of the LVC community, every day," MacLaren said. "We know a lot more work needs to be done—in hiring, in climate and in areas the SWOT analysis will spotlight—and the whole campus will need to collaborate to get to where we need to be. The work is ongoing and unending and requires continual evaluation and improvement."

## Campus safety addresses parking complaints

**JENNA ANGSTADT '25**  
STAFF WRITER

As students settled into their routines on campus the past few weeks, parking has been a main topic of conversation.

Students are finding that there seem to be more parking passes sold than there are parking spaces. However, after talking to campus safety, this is not the case.

Upperclassmen who park in red lot have been flooding campus safety with complaints of having to park in gold lot as red lot is seemingly full. Although this may not be ideal, it is what is available to students.

Brian Boyer, campus safety supervisor, explained the College's theory on parking to clarify any confusion students may have.

"Gold lotters, red lotters... everyone pays the same price for parking,"

Boyer explained. "[LVC's] theory on red lot is that you have permission to park closer, but you are not guaranteed a spot in the red lots."

Boyer spoke about his plans and efforts to open up more spaces in the red lots. He stated that campus safety is starting to force commuters and faculty out of red lot and into different lots on campus, opening up more spots in red lot for students.

"We are going to allow commuters

who are going to Arnold Health Professions Pavilion (AHPP) to park above AHPP," Boyer said. "We are giving commuters more options to try to keep them out of the red lots."

Campus safety and the College are working behind the scenes to solve the parking issues on campus. The reality is that there is no quick fix and students must be cooperative and compliant with the rules that campus safety enforces.

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## Service with meaning

ELIANA SHENK '24  
STAFF WRITER

Serving means something different for everyone, but it is always important and impactful for others and ourselves.

Service is a major part of LVC, even making its way into the values of the Imagine LVC strategic plan. This is because of the value it provides both students and the communities served as they look beyond themselves to see and fill the needs of others.

"I think it's easy to get stuck in our own little bubbles and view things pretty narrowly," Jen Liedtka, coordinator of service and volunteerism, said. "When we start to serve, and we surround ourselves with people or put ourselves in places that are different than what we typically know, we can start to understand that the world is much bigger."

With an expanded perspective and worldview, students learn more about their communities, themselves and their lived experiences. Service opportunities provide a way for people to grow and connect their abilities to real needs.

"It gives students the chance to build relationships when we serve," Liedtka said. "Some barriers that sometimes exist between us get broken down naturally because we're focusing on something other than ourselves."

Serving is beneficial for both the volunteer and the recipient. While the benefits for the volunteer are valuable, it is important to understand and focus on the true purpose of serving to keep a grounded mindset.

"It's not only a way to give back to the community, but also helps those who participate in service to feel a sense of belonging," Abbey DeLisio, a junior physical therapy major, said. "I think being able to feel the impact you give has impacted me a lot, and that fuels my want to help others and keep serving."

There are many ways to be impactful through serving. Each community has a variety of needs, all of which need the help of others to be overcome.

One way to serve is through weekly opportunities with organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, tutoring in the local schools or serving at a local food pantry. These opportunities are apart from the typical one-time service events and provide a way for volunteers to commit their time and efforts to meeting a need within the local community and to build deeper relationships with the people they are serving.

Anyone interested in serving can find opportunities on Redbook. To get involved in weekly serving commitments, contact Jen Liedtka at [liedtka@lvc.edu](mailto:liedtka@lvc.edu).

## Global journey: Australia to Annville

RYAN PICKLE '24  
STAFF WRITER

On a campus where everyone seems connected coming from similar regions, LVC has a new student from a country far away as part of the largest first-year class in school history.

A native of Melbourne, Australia, Adam Jirik had a very long 30-hour journey to get himself to Annville, Pennsylvania, and his decision to come here was not easy.

Jirik has been a very sporty person from a young age. After moving to the countryside, he participated in sports like cricket, Australian football and baseball. After years of experiencing all three, he decided what he wanted to do in his future.

"I realized there was a pathway with baseball, so I began my focus there," Jirik said.

Once Jirik decided that he wanted to pursue a future in baseball at

the collegiate level, he began the recruiting process. Narrowing his options down, he saw an opportunity at LVC.

"I got recruited by Coach Beth Woerner through my recruiting profile that my academy had," he said. "I started to talk to Coach Jonas Fester about baseball and school and it was one of the better schools that I was looking at."

A talented athlete, Jirik is also very intelligent and strong statistically. Majoring in actuarial science, he looks to take on the challenge of this major while also exploring other fields at LVC.

"I like actuarial science because it's a lot of math and problem-solving which I have always been interested in," Jirik said. "The classes so far have been pretty challenging, especially

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Sunday, Nov. 5, at 2 p.m.

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## Global Education adds new study abroad locations

MEREDITH HAAS '24  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Office of Global Education has added additional locations for summer 2024.

As the demand for study abroad on LVC's campus continues to grow, the Office of Global Education continues to seek new opportunities and new locations for students to explore.

For many students, pursuing a summer study abroad opportunity versus one that runs for a full semester can be an ideal situation. Studying abroad over the summer allows students the ability to continue on with their regular semester while not having to forgo the unique experience that is studying abroad in college.

Because of this, Jill Russell, director of global education, has been working tirelessly to get new locations established as a summer program. For summer 2024, two new programs have been added: Edinburg, Scotland and Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The three-week Scotland program gives students the chance to engage with the music and culture of historic and modern Scotland. While partially geared towards music students, this program is open to anyone who has an interest in the rich musical heritage found in Scotland.

Led by Dr. Warren Gramm, assistant professor of music and director of music education, students in Scotland will have the opportunity to visit many significant cultural and music sites, attend concerts and museums and have the chance to visit other cities. Students will also earn three credits taking "Music in Traditional and Contemporary Culture: Scotland" and fulfill an IME requirement.

"LVC has not offered many short-term study opportunities around music, so if you love watching local bands in small concert venues and pubs, this is absolutely the program for you," Russell said.

In addition to Scotland, a four-week program in Belfast, Northern Ireland will be taken for the first time, headed

by Dr. Bettie Bertram.

Students will take two classes, "Communication Across Cultures: Northern Ireland" taught by Dr. Bettie Bertram, assistant professor of education, and one by the host institute, earning six total credits and fulfilling an IME requirement.

"I have been considering studying abroad for a while because LVC has some great opportunities," Alexis McCarney, a junior English and history double major, said. "I'm looking into the new Ireland summer program because it is open to any major and the history of the area is interesting to me."

When not taking classes, students will travel to popular tourist attractions nearby, such as Titanic Belfast and Giants Causeway, but also visit local museums, memorials and more.

"Northern Ireland has a complicated and beautiful history and is the perfect location to explore peace-making initiatives in a larger context," Russell said.

Along with these two new programs, summer programs in Costa Rica, Italy, the Netherlands and Quebec City will continue to run in 2024.

For more general information on study abroad, contact Jill Russell at [russell@lvc.edu](mailto:russell@lvc.edu).

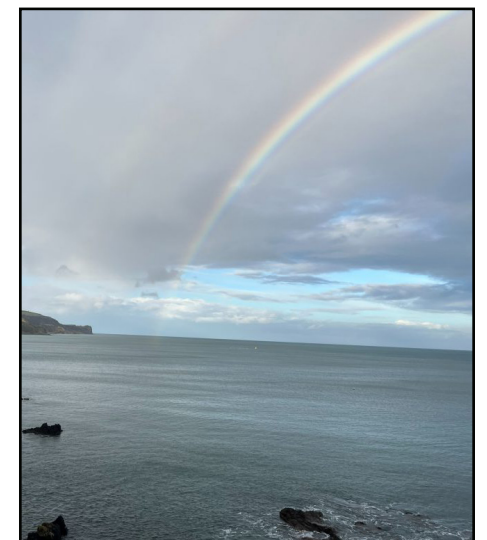


Photo by: LVC Office of Global Education  
ABOVE: A rainbow in Northern Ireland.

## Occupational therapist in the making

TYLEE STAUFFER '25  
STAFF WRITER

LVC is preparing a psychology student for their dream career.

Grace Atkinson is a junior psychology major with an exercise science minor. Her career aspirations are to become an occupational therapist (OT) for young children.

"I know [occupational therapy] helps a lot of people as I have spoken to parents with kids on the autism spectrum and they say that their occupational therapists really helped them," Atkinson said.

As Atkinson started her fall semester, so has her internship with a local pediatric OT, Emily Maisto. Maisto works for Developmental and Disability Services, which is a non-profit organization based in Lebanon that provides free therapy services for children. She specializes in working with children who have difficulties eating.

"A typical session starts with me asking about how the family's week went and what we can celebrate that the child did well," Maisto said. "I then ask the family what they want to focus on for the next hour, and they will share their priorities. The family and I then design an activity to practice together with the child."

Atkinson is required to log 45 hours of hands-on experience throughout the semester. Her responsibilities are simply to observe, occasionally participate in exercises with the kids and ask tons of questions, as she is still learning the ins and outs of being an OT.

"I am not learning specific skills that I'll have to directly apply as an OT, but I'm learning the process and the possibilities of what I could be doing," she said.

Atkinson's post-graduation plans are to complete an occupational therapy program before she enters the workforce as an OT.

## New creative arts opportunity

TAVI STALLINGS '27  
STAFF WRITER

Another creative opportunity available to all students has arrived this semester.

Dr. MC Hyland, assistant professor of English and creative writing, has opened a drop-in book arts studio for all students who wish to participate.

A variety of opportunities are available through this book arts studio. At the first meeting, the students typeset and printed broadsides for the guest author, Sarah Cypher. Hyland has a history of doing book arts; she recounts her time at the University of Alabama, printing broadsides for guest and student readers while pursuing her MFA in writing and book arts.

"It was such a nice celebratory thing that I really wanted to bring to LVC when I started working here," Hyland said. "Dr. Machado, who's the department chair of English and humanities, was also very excited about the idea of setting."

Not only does typesetting and letterpress printing happen at this book arts studio, but Hyland discussed a variety of other book arts she plans to do.

"I think probably I'll start doing at the beginning of semesters a notebook-making workshop," Hyland



Photo by: Tavi Stallings

ABOVE: Gillian Wenhold and Addy Ruth helped to create broadsides for visiting author Sarah Cypher.

said. "And maybe some other. I'd love to do paper making in the spring when it's warm out."

This opportunity is open to anyone who wants to learn different book arts. Hyland wants anyone interested in attending to know that they are welcome and that she can guide anyone through anything that may seem intimidating. This semester, there are two remaining meetings.

The next meeting is Friday, Nov. 3, in Humanities 207-B, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## LVC to host instant decision day

PAIGE DALTO '24  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LVC's department of graduate and professional studies (GPS) will host an instant decision day on Tuesday, Nov. 7, on the first floor of Bishop Library.

Instant decision day is an event for LVC seniors interested in applying for the College's graduate programs. Seniors will be able to apply for a program, interview with the respective program's director and receive their admission decision in the same day.

"LVC offers 13 graduate degrees and 12 graduate certificates," Brittany Hampton, GPS assistant and application records coordinator, said. "The departments that will be represented at the fair include athletic training, counseling, education and music education, exercise science, business and intelligence and security studies."

The event is geared towards seniors, but interested underclassmen are welcome to attend and speak with GPS staff to learn more about the graduate programs LVC offers.

Applying to graduate programs can be a stressful period for seniors, and this event aims to alleviate some of that waiting anxiety.

Often, the process of applying to a graduate school can take an extended amount of time, and instant decision day was created to provide students with a clear-cut process that provides a same-day decision.

"Instant decision day offers a clear path to LVC seniors interested in making grad school their next step after graduation," Hampton said.

Seniors interested in attending simply need to bring their current résumé and GPS staff will walk them through the application process. The event will begin at 11 a.m. and run until 1 p.m.

## Future actuary

JULIA CRAIG '24  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

As seniors prepare to enter the real world, a common goal for many is to secure a post-graduate job.

Pete Rahtjen, a senior actuarial science major and computer science minor, has that part figured out. Rahtjen recently secured a job after a successful internship with Guardian Life, where he will be an associate actuarial product specialist in individual market insurance.

"My internship experience provided a good opportunity for me

to start my career in the actuarial field," Rahtjen said. "I will also be starting in a rotation for actuaries who haven't completed their actuary exams."

Rahtjen also reflected on his time at LVC and how his classes aided him.

"The actuarial department helped prepare us for internships, jobs, exams, public speaking and critical learning," Rahtjen said.

Best of luck to Pete as he begins his career!



Cartoon by: Aaron Vankirk '25, staff artist



## Diving deeper into the 2023 men's swim season

JUSTIN KOPP '25  
STAFF WRITER

LVC's men's swim team is looking to ramp up its cohesiveness this season, and the pool is already ripe with plans and enthusiasm.

Mary Gardner, head coach of the men's and women's swim teams for 26 years, is optimistic about how her male swimmers fall in terms of class standing. Looking at the roster, the team is split mostly evenly with nine being first-year students or sophomores and 13 who are juniors, seniors or graduate students.

"Probably the most equally distributed group I've ever had," Gardner said. "It helps to be balanced—school-wise and socially."

This balance is especially valuable for younger swimmers since older swimmers are often a vital resource for getting acquainted with campus life and college expectations.

Given the overtly friendly nature of the team, it is uncommon for many swimmers to have any trouble fitting in with the group.

"We've got a lot of personality here," Gardner said. "And for the most part, the uniqueness of the group allows them to be themselves."

However, between graduations, expired athletic eligibilities and the rigors of graduate school, there

are fewer veterans on deck than in years past. And without designated leadership positions, it is the team's responsibility to preserve its tight-knit bond.

Freestyle sprinter Tyler Singer is one of the group of juniors who have put themselves in a leadership position this season. Beyond representing the men's team on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, he is an active player in organizing team bonding activities.

"We'll get people showing up to practices, meets and team bonding events," Singer said. "We'll get them more connected and get it to where we're moving away from standing around in our little groups on deck."

The move from the MAC Commonwealth conference to the MAC Freedom conference this season could present a challenge to these team-building efforts. There are only three home meets for the Dutchmen this season, and away meets often mean a two-hour bus ride both ways.

The men's swim team will have its first conference home meet against King's College at 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3, at the Arnold Sports Center.

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since I have been out of school for a while now."

Outside of school and back at home, Jirik is always trying to keep busy spending time with family and friends, and has even developed a clothing brand, selling shirts, hoodies and beanies.

"We thought it could be fun, keep us busy, but we didn't take it too seriously and it's hard to keep up with now since I'm away," he said.

Now at LVC, Jirik is looking forward to getting out and exploring all of what is offered here. He mentions going to his first NFL game, NBA game and traveling in general.

"I would like to visit Canada," Jirik said. "I'm here to study, but I'm also here to see different places around the world."

LVC will now be Jirik's home for the next four years. A first-year infielder on the baseball team, he credits the team, especially the upperclassmen, for making him feel welcome in his



Photo by: LVC Twitter

ABOVE: The infielder said choosing LVC for its academics and athletics was an easy decision.

first few weeks here.

"The guys are awesome; I feel like I'm a part of the team right away," he said.

Jirik is looking forward to meeting new people, adapting to life here in the states and putting on a show at McGill Field in each of the next four springs.

## LVC baseball on the rise

RYAN MURPHY '24  
STAFF WRITER

After many years of struggles, LVC's baseball team has been on the climb to the top.

The team has proven over the past three years to be turning the page towards becoming a powerhouse. A main ingredient in the success of the Dutchmen has been the hiring of Head Coach Jonas Fester in 2019. Since Fester has been the coach of the Dutchmen, all he has known is winning.

After a not-so-ideal 2019 season, finishing 16-23 and placing second to last in the conference, the program has taken off. In 2020, the Dutchmen finished 10-2 after the season was cut short because of COVID-19.

Since then, LVC baseball has made three straight appearances to the MAC Commonwealth Championship, winning the championship in 2022 and 2023—the first two times since 2002—and even making a strong appearance in the NCAA regional tournament in 2023.

"The goal is to continue the upward trajectory of the program, but the main goal is to make it to the College

World Series," Fester said.

So far, the Dutchmen have been on the right path to do so. They have made two straight regional tournaments and were one win away from reaching a super-regional in 2023.

The success starts with Fester but also lies with the talent that has been recruited to LVC. Fester's strategy when recruiting has shown success in a short amount of time.

"We like to recruit players who are great teammates," Fester said. "We look for someone who is a good person and if they can add value. There is talent everywhere but it's hard to find talent and great character."

Because of the success of the Dutchmen baseball team over the past two years, Fester has earned MAC Commonwealth coach of the year in both 2022 and 2023. The Dutchmen look to keep improving and are looking forward to the 2024 season on the other side of the MAC conference, after moving from the Commonwealth to the Freedom.

"I am excited to keep building and believe this team can really make a deep run in the national playoffs," Blair Shaffer, a senior pitcher, said.

That run starts in February.



Photo by: LVC Athletics

ABOVE: The baseball team has won the MAC Commonwealth Championship two years in a row.

keep up with all things

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