

LA VIE COLLEGIENNE

LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE'S STUDENT RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1924

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Big honor for LVC's concert choir

MARINA BILTCLIFF '26
STAFF WRITER

LVC's concert choir has been selected to perform at the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Eastern Conference in Rhode Island in late February.

The selection process for ACDA is highly competitive. The choir must upload three years of performance footage. The director must also upload a proposed program for the choir to perform at the conference, along with a diversity statement discussing how diversity, equity and inclusion is showcased in the classroom. Once the performance footage is uploaded, the judges blindly listen to all submissions.

"I've applied many times and this is the first time in 16 years I've been accepted," Dr. Kyle Zeuch, assistant

professor of music and director of choral activities, said.

Zeuch also said how performing at the ACDA conference confirms a long tradition of excellence that comes from the College's music department.

The choir will perform a program consisting of six pieces from different backgrounds; there are pieces written by historically excluded composers, specifically women and people of color, while also including traditional choral music, such as Bach and Purcell. A diverse selection of pieces ensures the program appeals to all tastes and preferences.

The program also includes many emotionally heavy pieces, from "Ayúdame (Venezuelan Plea for Life)" by Carlos Cordero detailing the Venezuelan immigration crisis, to "Joy Never Leaves," by Christopher Harris, which describes the importance of

always appreciating the joys in life.

"At that point in the program, there are extreme feelings of pride, joy and exhaustion," Zeuch said on performing "Joy Never Leaves."

Although pressures may be high, Zeuch does not want the classroom environment to change. He still wants to ensure the journey is as rewarding as the destination. The performance is meant to represent the talent of LVC's concert choir, and Zeuch frequently reminds his students of this.

"What we do is not about one performance," Zeuch said.

Despite the pressures, Zeuch manages to facilitate an uplifting classroom environment.

Participation in the conference is made possible by generous donors.



Photo by: Tyler Hartl

ABOVE: The 2024 Symposium on Inclusive Excellence featured Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, president and CEO of Do Good Work Consulting Group, as its keynote speaker. Day classes were canceled for the day-long event took place on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Change to academic calendar

PAIGE DALTO '24
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LVC's academic calendar will undergo a long-awaited change next spring.

Starting January 2025, LVC will no longer hold classes on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. President James MacLaren alerted students and faculty of the change via email in January.

MLK Day falls on the third Monday of January. Until this announcement, LVC's classes remained in session

during the federal holiday.

In addition to this change, there will be educational activities and service opportunities on campus before and after the holiday. These events will celebrate Dr. King's life, work and commitment to nonviolent social change.

Although class will not be in session for MLK Day, in order to meet requirements for the amount of Monday sessions, classes will now be held on the Monday following Easter.

O sweet Juliet

MARINA BILTCLIFF '26
STAFF WRITER

Wig and Buckle Theater Company will perform its second show of the season later this week.

Wig and Buckle's production of "Romeo and Juliet" has added a creative spin, while also keeping the text's Shakespearean language. Director Melissa West, a junior music education major, wanted to give the timeless classic a modernized feel, but also did not want to change the meaning and impact of the story.

Although Shakespeare can seem

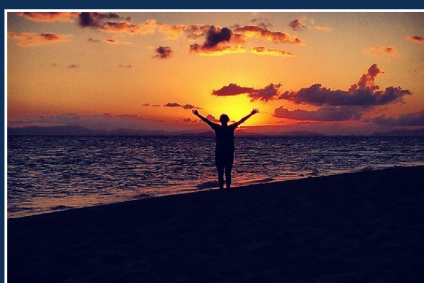
uninteresting to some, students will not want to miss out on this production.

There are several shows at Leedy Theater: Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 18, at 1 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now and are free for students. Make sure to reserve a spot via the Wig & Buckle website or the QR code.



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Dutchmen down under

MEREDITH HAAS '24
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

LVC has announced the revival of a formerly run study abroad program.

As the New Zealand semester study abroad program has increased in popularity, the College has rekindled its partnership with Monash University, a large university located in Melbourne, Australia, in an attempt to provide a similar alternative experience.

"Our partnership with Monash University ended in 2016, and we've decided we are bringing it back," Jill Russell, director of global education, said. "Monash offers classes in various subjects, allowing us to open this program to a wide variety of majors."

Melbourne, one of the largest cities in Australia, has plenty to offer LVC students. It's a large city with a very urban feel, but it's also a coastal city—within 20 minutes of the beach. Beyond its ideal location, it also is a hub for study abroad and tourism.

"Monash is a larger university, so it gives students a taste of what that may be like," Russell said. "There's a very diverse campus population with a large number of international students. While there is plenty to do

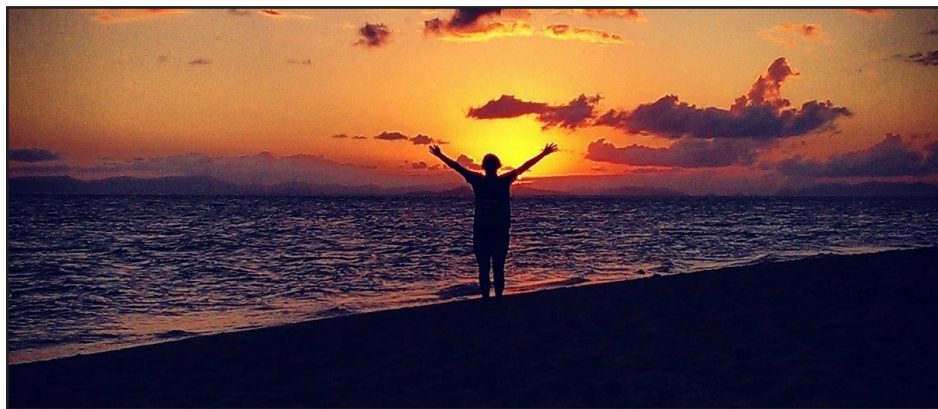


Photo by: Office of Global Education
ABOVE: Students enjoy the coast in Melbourne.

in Melbourne, it's easy to travel to other cities on a budget throughout Australia. When our students studied there in the past, they constantly arranged other trips."

While in Australia, students can choose from a variety of courses. Students will take a total of four classes, earning 16 credits through the host university that can be transferred back to LVC. This allows students to have a unique semester-long experience, all while continuing on with major requirements.

LVC students will live in the suburbs of Melbourne, housed in single-room dorms. This gives students the chance to escape the hustle and bustle of the

city, all while being just a short walk away from everything students may need.

With the addition of this program, LVC has now had programs—both past and present—on five of the seven continents. Each of LVC's programs present students with unique opportunities catered to their interests.

"LVC is doing really well for a school our size as far as providing courses that will transfer towards our degree requirements and giving students an opportunity to study in both small institutes and large universities with both English and foreign language instruction," Russell said. "We try

to make our programs diverse to cast a wide net of what may pique a student's interest. Every year we evaluate our programs to determine if we add new programs or stop offering some."

As new programs continue to be introduced, there are increasing ways for these programs to be made affordable for LVC students. For semester programs, students are able to retain their institutional aid. This means students keep scholarships, can apply for loans and are billed the same LVC tuition and accommodation fees. For the Australia program, a partial stipend will be provided to assist with airfare and student VISA costs. Beyond that, scholarships are available to LVC students through the Katherine J. Bishop Fund for Global Study.

For more information on the Australia program, or any other study abroad program offerings, students can reach out to Jill Russell at russell@lvc.edu.

"Tuck Everlasting" cabaret sparks excitement

BELLA GETZ '24
STAFF WRITER

LVC's music theater community set the stage for their upcoming production, "Tuck Everlasting," with a cabaret held in late January.

Eighteen students and faculty showcased their talents, offering a sneak peek into the upcoming production based on the Natalie Babbitt novel, "Tuck Everlasting."

"The students within the cast and production team worked tirelessly to put on a sell-out cabaret," Jonathan Walker-VanKuren, assistant professor of music theatre and studio voice, said.

The production of "Tuck Everlasting" delves into the story of 11-year-old Winnie Foster, who dreams of a life beyond the white-picket fence. As she discovers the Tuck family and their secret, the narrative explores themes of adventure, immortality and life choices.

"If the wild success of the cabaret says anything, it is to get your tickets now," Walker-VanKuren said.

Performances are scheduled for April 4-6 at 7 p.m. and April 7 at 2 p.m. in Leedy Theater in the Allan W. Mund College Center. Tickets are available for purchase through LVC Music Theater BookTix. Students can reserve free tickets through Redbook.

FYM applications

ETHAN BAZYDOLA '26
STAFF WRITER

The applications to become a first-year mentor at LVC are now live for any rising sophomore, junior or senior.

First-year mentors play an important role on campus during orientation to welcome the incoming

class and help spread the mission of LVC. In addition to helping during orientation, first-year mentors move in early, receive a stipend and develop leadership skills.

An information session will be held in Clyde A. Lynch Memorial Hall on Monday, Feb. 19, at 4 p.m. Contact Abby Anderson at aanderson@lvc.edu with any questions.

Breen Center helps with internship process

TYLEE STAUFFER '24
STAFF WRITER

As a college student, one of the most valuable experiences that college has to offer is internships.

LVC prides itself on being the leading college in PA for job placement and internships are a great way to obtain real-world experience that could potentially turn into a full-time job. The Breen Center for Career and Professional Development is one of LVC's most useful tools for preparing students for their careers after college.

To get started on the internship process, the Breen Center recommends searching and applying for internships about nine to ten months before the desired start time of the internship. Also, talk with your academic advisor about the specific internship requirements for your department. Internships can be found through search engines like Handshake, Indeed, Glassdoor or LinkedIn and different events held by your academic department or the

Breen Center.

"I absolutely think that every student should participate in at least one internship during their collegiate experience," Brynn Mason, director of the Breen Center for Career and Professional Development, said. "They provide valuable experience and help you to determine the types of companies, roles and industries that you would like to pursue for a career."

The Breen Center can aid in the internship process by reviewing application materials such as resumes and cover letters, assisting with the online search, reviewing job descriptions and conducting mock interviews.

"Listing internship experiences on your resume also demonstrates to future employers that you have some industry-specific, professional experience," Mason said.

Visit Handshake to schedule an appointment with a Breen Center representative to learn more about the internship process or anything else career-related.

Rocket League gears up for Virginia Wesleyan

HAROLD BOWMAN '24
STAFF WRITER

The Rocket League team is making travel arrangements for its upcoming tournament.

Hosted by Virginia Wesleyan University, the second Collision on the Coast will feature teams from 14 schools across the country.

Last year's roster featuring Mason Garza, Dylan Lower and Tyler Franquet exceeded expectations with a sixth-place finish. This included a close 3-1 loss on the main stage to the eventual tournament winners—George Mason University.

This year, the team will travel with the new starting roster of Franquet, Matthew Keilholz and Sam Rothstein, alongside substitute player Andrew Fite.

The event will start on Friday, Feb. 16, with a group stage where LVC was drawn into a group with Lubbock



Photo by: Harold Bowman

ABOVE: Tyler Franquet (left) and Mason Garza (right) preparing for their match against George Mason University at the 2023 Collision on the Coast event.

Christian University, Virginia Wesleyan and the University of Dayton.

Each team will move on to the bracket stage the following day that will feature a double-elimination bracket.

Score updates will be posted to the LVC esports social media pages with select matches being streamed on the Virginia Wesleyan Twitch channel.

For The Kids

LYNSEY BRINKLEY '24
STAFF WRITER

Volunteering with For The Kids (FTK) is a way to make a difference in someone's life.

FTK is a branch of the Four Diamonds Foundation, along with THON and Mini-THON. The Four Diamonds Foundation raises money for children with cancer who are in need throughout the year.

"FTK, and more specifically Four Diamonds, has always had such a great message and it is a life changing cause to a lot of families," Olivia Martin, a sophomore exercise science major and officer of FTK, said. "Someone very close to me had childhood cancer and Four Diamonds helped her whole family. Knowing

that Four Diamonds did so much to aid in her story and in so many other peoples' stories is so inspirational."

At LVC, FTK holds multiple fundraisers throughout the year, such as Casino-THON and Pie an RA. The group participates in LVC Live, the club fair, Fall Fest, Jingle Jam and other school activities.

"This year, people should expect to come out and pie their favorite RA during this semester," Martin said. "I personally am very excited for Casino-THON this year. It is going to be another super fun experience from beginning to end."

Students can join the FTK team; the group meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Clyde A. Lynch Memorial Hall, room 186.



Photo by: LVC Photography Club

ABOVE: Members of LVC's Team FTK raise money for Four Diamonds Foundation to help children survive and thrive.

Women's tennis spring preview

ELIANA SHENK '24
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The women's tennis team is gearing up for the challenges of the upcoming spring season.

After going undefeated in the fall season, the women's tennis team is looking to take on the new competition of the MAC Freedom conference. In the past two years, the team went 3-2 against the Freedom conference in head-to-head matchups. This presents a new level of play for the team as it looks to prove itself in the conference.

"I think it'll be really cool to see new competition and challenge our team further because this conference is harder," Nicole Honrade, a graduate tennis player, said.

The team won back-to-back MAC Commonwealth Championships and wants to use its strengths to fight for the same in the Freedom Conference. It still has four of its starting six players from the championship teams.

"We have a very deep team; we have a very experienced team, this year especially," Dr. Noëlle Vahanian, the women's head coach, said. "I think our strength is grit and I think we have variety in our game."

The team is looking to take on the new competition head-on. The players want to prove themselves and

earn their spot in the conference by leaving their all out on the court.

"I'm excited to go up against Stevens because they are the number one opponent in the MAC right now," Jacquelyn McBride, a senior tennis player, said. "We're going to work hard, play hard and see what we can do in the new section of the MAC."

Moving forward, the team is also looking to build its team chemistry. Many of the players have been on the team for a while, and they want to continue to build those relationships.

"I am really excited to do more team bonding—I love my team so much and I can't wait to spend more time with them," Gigi Guay, a sophomore tennis player, said.

The team's first match this spring is on Sunday, Feb. 25, against Wilkes University.



Photo by: Sarah Kramer

ABOVE: The women's tennis team is getting ready to make its mark on the MAC Freedom this spring.

Inaugural nursing class enters new building

KYLE SHENK '25
STAFF WRITER

LVC's first nursing class is set to start nursing-specific courses in their new building this semester.

After completing three semesters worth of classes meant to build a strong foundation for these students, nursing-related courses are finally on the horizon. This also means they are entering LVC's newest academic facility, the nursing education building, which is connected to the Arnold Health Professions Pavilion on north campus.

Fitted with high-tech simulation labs and other helpful teaching tools, this facility is meant to set LVC's present and future nursing classes up for success in their field.

"It's really exciting to start classes related to nursing and be able to learn and work closely with the nursing

faculty who are very knowledgeable and supportive," Allison Cooper, a sophomore nursing major, said. "Being able to practice in a clinical setting is also something that I think will be extremely beneficial for me."

Cooper is not alone in her excitement to use the simulation lab.

"I'm very excited because we get to practice the skills that we learn about in class on state-of-the-art equipment," Anna Kolacek, a sophomore nursing major, said.

"Practicing the skills that we do has given me a small taste as to what my career will feel like," Isaac Sider, a sophomore nursing major, said.

LVC's nursing program is among the newest offered by the school, and the development of the program is one to watch, especially if interested in a career in the medical field.

LVC baseball 2024 season preview

ANDREW SPAAN '25
STAFF WRITER

The LVC baseball team looks to continue its success in a new conference this season.

The Dutchmen are coming off a historic season in 2023, which included a program best 31-17-1 record, a second consecutive conference championship and a regional championship appearance. Along with this, LVC was home to a program record of nine All-Conference Player selections; the Conference Player of the Year, Nico Santoro; Conference Coach of the Year Jonas Fester and the first All-American in program history, Shane Stossel.

The Dutchmen ended their 2023 season with a loss to the eventual national champions, Lynchburg University, but not before notching the first three regional wins in program history.

"Last year was an electric experience," Malachia Duka, junior captain, said. "Our chemistry as a group was great, but it was sad to see everyone go after the regional final."

This is the first year in which the team will play in the MAC Freedom Conference. The shift poses new challenges. The conference features two teams that made the NCAA tournament in 2023, a 2023 Division III College World Series participant and the 2024 preseason team ranked eleventh nationally. The Dutchmen were picked to finish fourth in the conference in the coach's preseason poll.

"The new conference is definitely going to be more challenging than the one we were in," Duka said. "I feel like we are going to need to work better as team and do better at the small details, but overall, I feel like we have a fair shot at making another run this year."

Despite these challenges, the Dutchmen are primed and eager to take on the MAC Freedom. With many of their starters from last year returning and a group of talented underclassmen, the Dutchmen tout an experienced offensive lineup along with a high caliber pitching staff that will look to make an impact in the 2024 season.

Women's lacrosse have sights set high

ANNA LOUGEE '24
STAFF WRITER

The women's lacrosse team has high expectations for its first season in the MAC Freedom Conference.

With the coaches' preseason polls placing them third in the conference, the team has plans to achieve that and more. Senior midfielder Emily Beard, a two-year captain and a crucial member of the team for the Dutchmen, has her goals set high for her last season.

"We're really excited to prove ourselves within this new conference," Beard said. "It will be a

good opportunity to make a name for ourselves."

By switching to the MAC Freedom, there will be several teams the Dutchmen will face for the first time.

"It will certainly be a challenge to see some of these teams for the first time," Riley Finnegan, senior defender, said. "But I think it will be exciting for our team to get to experience the fresh competition."

The team has begun practices, with its first game approaching rapidly. The Dutchmen will travel to Dickinson College on Saturday, Feb. 17.

History made: First men's soccer All-American

ETHAN BAZYDOLA '26
STAFF WRITER

A member of the men's soccer team secured his place in the LVC history books.

Nathan Prex, a sophomore business major on the men's soccer team, is the team's first All-American in program history. Prex was one of the top goal-scorers in the country, netting 20 goals in 19 games, including five games where he scored more than one goal.

Hard work and dedication are the characteristics of an All-American.

"Without hard work and dedication, none of what I accomplished individually, what the team accomplished, would have been possible," Prex said.

Prex was also ranked in the top 10 in the country for total points, adding five assists to his 20 goals, leaving him with 45 points. He opened conference play with four goals in an important win away at Misericordia University.

Prex was one of the key contributors to the Dutchmen's 13-2-4 record, scoring in 13 different games. He broke the program record for goals and points in a season. All these impressive statistics earned him MAC Player of the Year, after he won MAC Rookie of the Year the previous season. He currently sits fifth in career goals

and tied for fourth with total points as a sophomore.

The coaching staff continues to help Prex become the best he can be.

"They challenged me throughout the year to look at the game differently on and off the field," Prex said.

Head coach Charlie Grimes was honored as Coach of the Year, his third time being honored with this award.

Although the season didn't end the way the team had hoped, with the Dutchmen losing in the conference final, Prex has hope for the future.

"The future looks filled with championships and turning this program into one of the best in the country," Prex said.



Photo by: LVC Athletic Communications

ABOVE: The forward adding his name to the record books.

Dutchmen softball getting ready for another big season

JULIA CRAIG '25
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The LVC softball team is looking to stay hot after last season's historic run.

Last year, the team went 36-12, finishing in the top 16 in the NCAA tournament, including the first regional championship in program history. This year's team has high expectations, as the preseason poll has voted the Dutchmen to win the conference in their first year in the MAC Freedom.

"I like being the favorite," Scot Adams, head coach, said. "Everyone else in the conference has to step up. The team still has to put in hard work, and we can't just expect it to happen."

A new coaching addition to the Dutchmen softball squad this season will also add a spark to the team. Assistant coach Alyssa Harhigh has joined the coaching staff after playing five seasons for York College softball, winning multiple MACC

championships and earning All-MACC first-team awards in three consecutive seasons.

"Coach Harhigh can connect with the players because she can relate to them, understanding the academic demands of a student-athlete," Adams said.

The team itself does feel some pressure, as there have been big expectations from the team for a few years.

"I know there are a lot of people relying on us to replicate last season and go even further," Sam Burns, senior outfielder and reigning MAC Commonwealth Player of the Year, said. "I think we should play every game like it's the last, and make sure we don't get complacent."

The team begins its season in Florida for spring break, where it will play a 10-game slate of strong competition. Catch the team's first home game and conference opener on Saturday, March 16, at 1 p.m. against Stevens Institute of Technology.

