



CAMPING CONTROVERSY



Malibu City Council fights against low-impact camping

Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

The California Coastal Commission and the L.A. County Board of Supervisors remain invested in the proposition of low-impact camping in the Santa Monica Mountains — a move the Malibu City Council is not in favor of, Mayor Bruce Silverstein said.

The debate has been ongoing since 2019, when the Council submitted its first letter of opposition to the County. The Council wrote three letters in total, which stated letting individuals camp in a high-fire zone was dangerous, according to the letters.

“There’s plenty of other areas in California that aren’t very high fire hazard severity zones where people can go camp,” Silverstein said.

Defining Low-Impact Camping

Low-impact camping is land designed for carry-in, carry-

out camping — allowing campers to walk from ADA compliant drop-off areas, trails or associated parking lots, according to a Nov. 15 Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program Amendment.

Low-impact camping does not damage or change the land, and everything the camper brings in, they need to bring back out, according to Essortment.

“This low-impact camping truly is a hike-in, hike-out, bring everything you need in your backpack and leave no trace,” Director of Regional Planning Amy Bodek said in an April 19 L.A. County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Low-impact campgrounds do not have fire-protective measures, such as rules about no camping on fire red flag days — days with extreme fire risks — campsite inspections and no cooking facilities, the Council wrote in a Jan. 20 letter to the CCC.

The Mountains Recreation

Malibu City Council drops ban on encampments

Liza Esquibias
Multimedia Producer

In mid-January, Malibu lifted its emergency order allowing the city to immediately clear any unhoused encampments in fire-prone areas, which began in September, Public Safety Liaison Luis Flores said.

and Conservation Authority previously looked at adding low-impact campgrounds to Malibu Bluffs Park and Ramirez Canyon Park, according to past reporting in The Malibu Times.

“Right now, you’re just allowed to hike there; you’re not allowed to camp there,” Silverstein said. “So it [low-impact campgrounds] will be an increase in what you’re allowed to do.”

See **A5**

Mayor Bruce Silverstein was the only person to vote against this motion, which he said targeted two related issues Malibu has been facing for years — unhoused encampments and camping.

Official fire season ended in January, but Silverstein said because Malibu is one of the few areas in California that is considered a very high fire hazard severity zone, wildfire risk never truly disappears.

“In my view, until Mother Nature does something different or the state does something different in the Santa Monica

Mountains for wildfires, we are in a state of emergency,” Silverstein said.

The Unhoused Population and Wildfires

The emergency order Malibu had in place allowed city officials to remove unhoused encampments from public property if the encampments posed a wildfire risk during the usual fire season, which typically runs from September through January, Flores said.

In recent years, Flores said the city’s efforts to reduce the number of unhoused individuals in Malibu have naturally trickled into efforts to reduce fire risk, and vice versa.

“There’s a direct correlation with homeless count numbers and fires, so we try to keep the number as low as possible,” Flores said.

See **A5**

Design by **Haley Hoidal**
Creative Director



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Good News: Sweet reminders to show loved ones you care



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Marley Penagos
DEI Editor

For years I was convinced Valentine’s Day was nothing more than a capitalistic Hallmark ploy to sell crappy chocolates and cards with Cupid on them.

I was a certified Valentine’s Day hater, and I was unapologetic about it. There was no way I was going to take part in a holiday based on spending money and couples who participate in way too much PDA for my taste.



While I try my very best to show my friends love on a day-to-day basis, it is so easy to get lost in the frenzy of life.

Marley Penagos
DEI Editor

Until my first Valentine’s Day with a significant other — even though that is not what it is all about — I realized the day of love doesn’t have to be all about plastic-tasting conversation hearts and a chubby flying baby with a bow and arrow.

Even though my significant other knew about my distaste for the holiday, he left extra tubes of my favorite chapstick in my car with a sweet handwritten note to surprise me. This small gesture made me feel

so loved it took me aback. It could not have cost him more than five dollars to put the gift together, and yet it made me feel known, seen and valued.

The kind gesture prompted me to look back on all the Valentine’s days in my life. I remembered the excitement of showing up to school in my best pink and red outfit. My backpack would be stuffed full of puppy or dinosaur valentines and chocolates — enough for every single person in my class. I remembered how my parents and grandparents made me and my siblings valentines gifts every year.

For every Valentine’s Day after that, I realized that random day in the middle of the shortest month was another opportunity to show the people dearest to me how much I love them.

While I try my very best to show my friends love on a day-to-day basis, it is so easy to get lost in the frenzy of life. Valentine’s Day is a sweet reminder to slow down and bask in the love, throw a few extra compliments as you walk around campus and switch your usual black T-shirt for a bright pink one. It is an extra motivator to be smiley and giggly and full of love.

Yes, the candy hearts suck. The sappy love songs can be an ear-full. And yes, the couples can be annoying — guilty. But whether your love is familial, platonic, romantic or even just a love for life, make the most of a day dedicated to love.

marley.penagos@pepperdine.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 18

Men’s Basketball vs. Gonzaga
Watch the Men’s Basketball team play against Gonzaga University at Firestone Fieldhouse at 4 p.m.

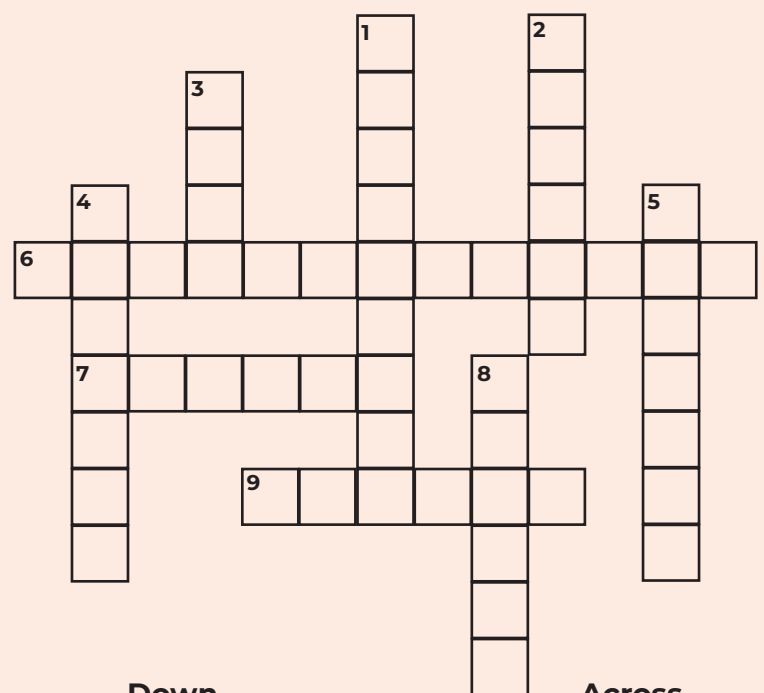
Feb. 23 and 25

Opera
The Pepperdine Opera will perform “H.M.S. Pinafore” in the Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts at 7:30 p.m.

March 8

Contempo
Listen to “Contempo: Pepperdine’s Annual Musical Theatre Review” at 7:30 p.m., at the Light House where students will perform different musical theatre songs.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

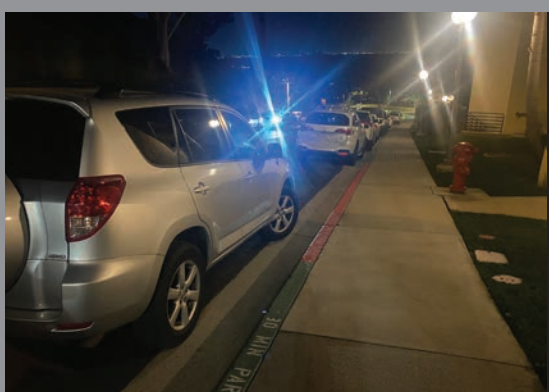


- Down**
1. Theme of DIF
 2. Subject of Rant or Rave
 3. Staff ed theme
 4. Meaningful ink artworks
 5. Low-impact _____
 8. _____ 200

- Across**
6. Holiday of love
 7. New year, New _____
 9. 75th season kick off

You Had One [Parking] Job

Highlighting bad parking on Pepperdine’s campus



Seaver Drive

Samantha Torre | News Editor



Smothers Parking Lot

Joe Allgood | Podcast Producer

SGA MEETING recap | 02.15

- 1 SGA passed a motion to increase awareness of mental health resources.
- 2 A motion passed to find ways to increase attendance at games.
- 3 SGA discussed how to raise awareness about the Career Center.



Lydia duPerier | Staff Photographer

Students enter Santa Monica College's Malibu campus Feb. 15. The location offers classes ranging from science to Barre Fusion, said Scott Silverman, dean of Non-credit and Summer Programs at SMC.

Malibu welcomes Santa Monica College

Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

There is a new place for learning in Malibu — Santa Monica College. SMC opened its doors at its new satellite campus for students Feb. 13, with over 450 students enrolled and 150 students arriving to class on the first day of school, said Scott Silverman, dean of Noncredit and Summer Programs at SMC.

SMC is located on Civic Center Way, right next to the Malibu Library. Silver-

man said the project has been over 10 years in the making, and students said they are excited to take classes in Malibu. The main campus is in Santa Monica.

"It's great; it's awesome," first-year Misha Frolov said. "Considering my girlfriend goes to Pepperdine, I get to actually go to school next to her and in Malibu, so it's really amazing."

SMC's Classes

The satellite campus is holding 25 classes, including Yoga, Film Appre-

ciation, English, Statistics and Public Speaking, Silverman said. There are four program options for students to choose from — emeritus, noncredit, credit or community education.

The emeritus program serves older adults who are interested in "lifelong learning" and is completely free, without credit, Silverman said.

Noncredit programs include an early childhood education certificate, Silverman said, which is a free certificate program at SMC. Students will complete the certificate at the Malibu campus.

Credit programs include the general classes, such as science and exercise classes, Silverman said. Any student is welcome to join these classes for credit, including Pepperdine students. They can be used toward an Associate's degree or to transfer, according to the SMC website.

"We'd love to have students from Pepperdine enroll in classes here," Silverman said. "If you see classes you like, check it out. It's definitely a great opportunity."

Lastly, SMC offers community education classes — including Barre Fusion class and a course on female architects. These classes are open for the public, Silverman said. They are low-cost, and include seminars and workshops, according to the SMC website.

"We really have all four types, depending on what students want to do," Silverman said. "They can pursue any one of those four types or programs or potentially all of them."

Students' and Faculty's Reactions

Professor Carol Davis said she is teaching English at SMC and has heard from her students there is excitement in the air. She said the location for school is hard to beat.

"It's really gorgeous," Davis said.

Frolov said he also loves the location, but hopes to see Malibu adapt into more of a "college town" because Pepperdine and SMC are in the same area.

"I would definitely love to see this area change into something more of a town for younger kids instead of just a beach and just a bunch of houses," Frolov said.

Namely, Frolov said he wants to see restaurants and bars stay open later to accommodate students after their classes are over.

Looking Forward

Silverman said he is happy with the enrollment numbers for the spring semester, but would like to see them grow in the coming years.

"The first semester is always a new experience and a new experiment," Silverman said. "But we have really good numbers."

There are still hours during the week not filled by classes, Silverman said, so he hopes to add more classes and students by next year.

"Maybe by spring of next year, I'd love to have even double the number of classes and to have all of them filled," Silverman said.



Lydia duPerier | Staff Photographer

Santa Monica College's Malibu location stands on Civic Center Way near the Malibu Country Mart. The location opened its doors to students Feb. 13.

abby.wilt@pepperdine.edu



Ali Levens | Senior Climate Change Reporter

A drought emergency banner hangs on a fence post at the intersection of Lost Hills Road and Malibu Canyon Road in Calabasas, Calif., on Feb. 4. After the State Water Resources Control Board allocated 5% to the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, the LVMWD enacted a restriction that restricted their residents to water one day a week.

Las Virgenes area handles water restrictions amid drought

Ali Levens
Senior Climate
Change Reporter

With native groundwater long gone due to extreme droughts in the past decade, the Las Virgenes area — including Pepperdine — must import 100% of its drinking water, according to the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's (LVMWD) website.

Importing water — and deciding who gets how much — involves the legal coordination of water districts and state governments to ensure this resource does not run dry.

“That’s the problem I see with water is that people view it as a property right, something that they’re entitled to,” said Shelley Saxer, Caruso School of Law Environmental Law professor.

People, organizations or governments can hold a form of property rights for water, known as senior water rights or prior appropriation, Saxer said. Prior appropriation for water recognizes the first entity to use a water source has precedence in its usage.

Prior appropriation grants legal permission to California

and its water districts to implement water rationing laws and restrictions while it is in a drought state of emergency, Saxer said. For the ongoing drought state of emergency, Government Code section 11346.1 and Water Code section 1058.5 give California and its water board this authority, according to California Water Boards.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California collects and rations water to its 26 member agencies and 19 million residents, said Demetri Polyzos, resource planning team manager at Metropolitan.

Polyzos said the water district imports about half of its water from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Basin, with the other half supplied via groundwater or recycled water at the other agencies.

For the second-consecutive year, the State Water Resources Control Board announced water districts would receive an allocation of 5% from the State Water Project, Polyzos said. This led Metropolitan to enact water restrictions on districts with smaller populations that receive most of their water from the State Water Project,

which includes Pepperdine’s water supplier, the LVMWD.

“It’s [water allocation] virtually nothing,” said Mike McNutt, LVMWD public affairs and communications manager.



That’s the problem I see with water is that people view it as a property right, something they’re entitled to.

Shelley Saxer
Caruso School of Law
Environmental Law
Professor

Polyzos said the Board’s low allocation “puts a strain” on the available water held in storage. Consequently, there is not enough water coming from the Board to satisfy Metropolitan’s water needs through allocation alone.

“That wasn’t enough,” Polyzos said. “That’s when we had to start essentially restricting.”

The restrictions for the LVMWD came in the form of limiting outdoor water usage by volume or by frequency starting in June 2022, McNutt said. LVMWD chose to limit outdoor watering to one day a week.

McNutt said the district chose the frequency approach because the volumetric restriction would require residents to reduce their water use by 73% — something McNutt said would “never” happen — and because frequency restrictions are “easier” to enforce.

Metropolitan requires the LVMWD to report its compliance monthly with the approved district-wide water reduction plan, McNutt said. If the LVMWD does not stay at or below the agreed upon water supply, Metropolitan will fine the water agency, which can be “quite substantial.”

In terms of outdoor watering at Pepperdine, the LVMWD and Pepperdine have a partnership with sending and receiving water. McNutt said Pepperdine sends its sewage to LVMWD’s Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, where it is treated and then sent back as “purple pipe water.” The University then uses this reclaimed water to keep Alumni Park green.

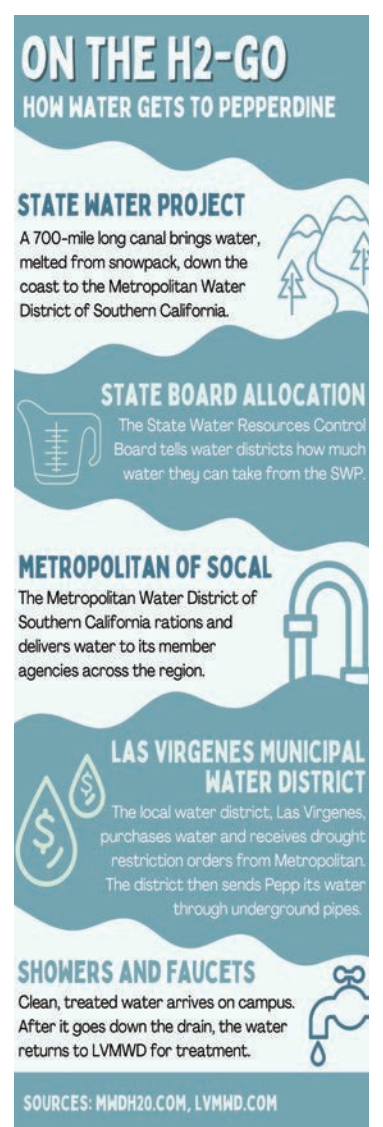
The Tapia Water Reclamation Facility on Malibu Canyon Road turns sewage into reclaimed water, which Pepperdine uses to water Alumni Park. Of all the water delivered by LVMWD, the facility has recycled about 20% of it for irrigation, according to LVMWD.

To stave off further restrictions, Polyzos said Metropolitan prepares four different scenarios of what could potentially happen to the water supply and demand — whether a surplus or drought — as part of a 25-year outlook.

“A lot of what changes among those scenarios is different assumptions on what the climate is doing, because that will have a big impact on our water supply,” Polyzos said. “We’re already seeing that today. So, we are planning for climate change impacts, and so that’s baked into our long-term planning.”

Polyzos and McNutt said there has been a shift in the mindset of Californians’ relationship with conserving water. Polyzos said the data backs that up, because even with a 5 million resident increase in Southern California in the 1980s, water usage has been stable, which shows the individual Californian uses less water now than they did three decades ago.

“There is a major sense of urgency associated with find-



Ali Levens |
Senior Climate Change Reporter

ing additional water supplies to get us through, but [this] arguably, is the new normal,” McNutt said.

McNutt said the 15% allocation is the minimum an agency should receive to cover health and safety needs, but the Board increased the allocation to 30% after record rainfall filled reservoirs across the state.

“Our supplies are increasing this year, but we can’t let off the gas with respect to continuing to find ways to save water, to use it wisely,” Polyzos said. “What we do in these wetter periods makes a huge difference in how we can manage the drier period, so we always need to keep conserving.”



Ali Levens | Senior Climate Change Reporter

The Tapia Water Reclamation Facility turns sewage into reclaimed water, which Pepperdine uses to water Alumni Park. Reclaimed water is not safe to drink but is safe enough for outdoor watering.

From A1: Emergency order drop impacts wildfire risk and unhoused individuals

Because unhoused individuals need to keep warm during the winter months, it is common for them to start fires for heat — which Flores said can erupt into something much larger. Another cause of unintended wildfires is smoking in fire-prone areas.

Encampments in particular pose a fire risk because they contain a lot of flammable material, Flores said. Tents, portable cooking supplies and bikes are a few examples of materials that are more likely to catch and spread fire.

Flores said in 2021, there were 157 unhoused individuals in Malibu — down from 239 in 2020 — and unhoused encampments caused 23 fires. In 2022, there were 81 unhoused individuals and only four fires.

In addition to removing encampments from fire-prone areas, Flores said city officials ensure members of the unhoused population in the Santa Monica Mountains understand the risks of open flames and other hazardous behaviors so they can protect themselves year-round.

“We have ongoing conversations with these individuals liv-

ing in these brushes and these canyons and those hillside areas,” Flores said. “We make sure that they’re educated.”

The Annual Homeless Count Process

The 2023 Homeless Count occurred Jan. 25 — at the end of fire season. This was just weeks after the city dropped the emergency order. That same week, the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors also cleared a large encampment at Surfrider Beach and a fire-prone area in Malibu Creek, all resulting in fewer unhoused individuals.

This count was the eighth time the City of Malibu has participated, with Flores and Public Safety Director Susan Dueñas as the site coordinators.

The Los Angeles Homeless Safety Authority sponsors this count throughout the greater Los Angeles area and then puts the results through a month-long analysis before releasing official numbers during the summer, Flores said.

Members of various law enforcement offices, The People

Concern, the Homelessness Task Force, the Public Safety Commission and 23 volunteers from the general public conducted the count, Flores said. After meeting at Malibu City Hall, Flores said the LAHSA provides everyone with an app to tally people and track their observations from their phones.

“They’re tracking individuals, families, tents, individuals living in their vehicles, RVs,” Flores said. “Basically every element of people experiencing homelessness.”

The app shows maps of the census tracts in the city, and Flores said he assigns those participating in the count to drive around different areas. At the end of the day, Flores submits the data LAHSA for processing.

Reduce the Unhoused Population and Wildfires

Silverstein said part of his campaign when he ran for City Council in 2020 was to reduce the number of unhoused individuals in an effort to protect all residents of Malibu. He said two measures aimed at

achieving this goal are indirect but impactful — an ordinance reducing RV parking and the new low-impact camping ordinance.

“Malibu can’t fix homelessness — I don’t think anyone in the country without the whole country working on it together can fix homelessness.”

Bruce Silverstein
Malibu Mayor

“Malibu can’t fix homelessness — I don’t think anyone in the country without the whole country working on it together can fix homelessness,” Silverstein said. “But we want to protect the residents from the

problems that arise from people living unhoused throughout the city and public.”

One of those problems is wildfires, Silverstein said, which is why he is concerned about the dropping of the emergency order. Legally, he said an emergency order should remain in place until the threat is no longer present, so the city should have kept the order to protect both unhoused individuals and other residents around the city from a year-round fire threat.

“Fire danger is omnipresent 24/7, 365 days a year,” Silverstein said.

The best way to reduce the unhoused population and wildfires is to ensure everyone who lives in Malibu is aware of the resources the city offers — such as shelters, free clothing and mental health services, Flores said.

“We’ve been making great strides on that front,” Flores said. “We’re very proactive and service-oriented when addressing homelessness, which has been having a lasting impact.”

liza.esquibias@pepperdine.edu

From A1: L.A. County proposes new low-impact campground

Campgrounds in Malibu, including Malibu Creek State Park and Topanga Canyon Campground, are not low-impact campgrounds — they are designed for large tents and RVs, Bodek said, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation supervise them.

Concerns with Low-Impact Campgrounds

Cal Fire designated Malibu as a “very high fire hazard severity zone,” according to Cal Fire, based on factors including fire history, natural vegetation, blowing embers, terrain and fire weather.

“That means that it can easily go up in smoke anytime,” Silverstein said. “And it’s uncontrollable when that happens, as we all know.”

The CCC’s plan for low-impact camping would allow campers to camp on red flag days, not require inspections and allow “fireproof” cooking stations.

The plan also does not follow L.A. County’s guidelines on environmental protections — namely, allowing low-impact campers to camp within 50 feet of a creek or stream rather than the 100 feet the County suggests.

“We think it is irresponsible and short sighted for the Board of Supervisors and the Coastal Commission to be allowing increased usage of that area, especially camping,” Silverstein said.

History of the Issue

Low-impact camping has been a back-and-forth issue since 2014 between the CCC and the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, according to the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program Amendment.

The Council wrote their first letter May 22, 2019, and stated low-impact camping was more dangerous than regular camping. The Council called on the Board of Supervisors and the CCC to change their language regarding regulations for low-impact camping.

The Council’s second letter April 15, called on the Board of Supervisors to reject the CCC’s most recent modifications to the Local Coastal Plan — modifications that triggered fire risk, according to the letter.

“I have a very hard time picturing anyone on this Council being in favor of what the County wants to do,” previous Councilmember Karen Farer said in an April 11 Malibu City Council meeting in response to the CCC’s modifications.

Despite the Council’s letters, the CCC approved the County’s modifications July 7, and the County accepted the CCC’s modifications Nov. 15 — reaching an agreement, according to the Feb. 8 CCC Staff Report.

The Council then wrote their third letter Jan. 20, and stated the approved modifications to the Local Coastal Plan

will greatly increase wildfires in Malibu due to the lack of fire protection, namely allowance of camping on red flag days and no supervision.

“They don’t care what we have to say; they’re going to approve it,” Silverstein said.

CCC’s Executive Director John Ainsworth reported Feb. 8, the CCC determined the County’s actions to approve the modifications were legally adequate.

While the Feb. 8 meeting report was simply a report, not a decision, the Council wrote in their Jan. 20 letter they still remain concerned about low-impact camping and said they will work with the Board and the CCC to keep Malibu’s residents and visitors safe.

“The City remains willing to work with the Commission and the County to resolve these concerns and reach a mutually acceptable solution,” the Council wrote in their Jan. 20 letter.

abby.wilt@pepperdine.edu



Art by Haley Hoidal
Creative Director

More than just a few words: Pepperdine community remembers Ted McAllister

Samantha Torre
News Editor

Ted McAllister, the Edward L. Gaylord Chair and professor of Public Policy, died in late January, according to the School of Public Policy's Jan. 27 news release.

Ted began teaching at SPP in its second year, 1998, wrote Pete Peterson, dean of SPP in a Feb. 8 email to the Graphic.

Ted taught Roots of American Order, Great Books and Great Ideas and several electives, and he created a "uniquely" Pepperdine curriculum, Peterson wrote.

Ron Cox, professor of Religion and interim dean of International Programs, said he has known Ted and his family since 2005 — their children were in a church youth group together, they served on the University Faculty Council together, led a reading group together and more.

"I don't think I could summarize Ted in a sentence or a couple of words," Cox said. "I mentioned his integrity. I mentioned his candor. I mentioned his thoughtfulness and mentioned his willingness to be contrarian if it helped to bring about clear understanding, and he was a person of great conviction."

Peterson wrote he and Ted worked together on the Why Place Matters conference series, which investigated the scale and scope of policymaking, and the Quest For Community conferences at Pepperdine, which addressed loneliness and alienation.

"Professor McAllister constantly pushed students and colleagues to consider the human dimension of public policy — to ask contextual questions about policy decisions rooted in history and human nature," Peterson wrote.

Regardless of the context, Cox said Ted made him think about the meaning of the words he used — by questioning and engaging with Cox in conversation.

“

There's really no showmanship about him. There was no putting on airs — he was exactly who he was.

Ron Cox
Professor of Religion

"If he disagreed, he wouldn't hold back from sharing that," Cox said. "At the same time, he was incredibly generous. So, he could be very straightforward in his critique and very honest in where he disagreed, but he cared deeply about me and about the people around him, and he cared deeply about Pepperdine."

Ted was also "the driving force" in creating community among the faculty at Pepperdine, Cox said.

"He relished the idea of poking and



Photo courtesy of Lena Pacifici

Ted McAllister, the Edward L. Gaylord Chair and professor of Public Policy, stands outside Pepperdine's School of Public Policy. McAllister died in late January, according to SPP's Jan. 27 news release, and left an impact on many people.

prodding those people for greater authenticity, more than you would ever want to have to be in their role," Cox said.

Everything Ted did was to strengthen those around him, Cox said.

"If I were introducing somebody to Ted, and I have the opportunity to set them up before we met Ted, I would encourage them to strap up and hold on tight and to be themselves but allow for Ted to be himself," Cox said.

Cox said when engaging candidly with Ted, one could expect Ted's honesty and integrity in return.

"There's really no showmanship about him," Cox said. "There was no putting on airs — he was exactly who he was."

Even if someone did not agree with Ted, his desire to help reach that clarity of thought and challenge others showed through, Cox said.

"He didn't want people to agree with him," Cox said. "In fact, he really appreciated when people didn't agree with him. What he wanted was honest dialogue," Cox said.

Ted created a place for people to communicate and engage with one another, Cox said.

"It's a huge loss," Cox said. "Because he helped me own what I care about and to step forward, and express it and defend it. And I'm part of a group of people who are indebted to him and who will miss him tremendously."

In hearing from SPP alumni, Peterson wrote he learned new ways Ted stayed in contact with graduates

An SPP graduate from over a decade ago — who now leads a charter school in Oakland — reached out to Peterson in January, Peterson wrote, and described his experience with Ted as a challenge "into liberation."

"Professor McAllister was constantly challenging his students to pursue truth, but it should be remembered that he challenged himself in this pursuit first and foremost," Peterson wrote.

Peterson wrote the response from those who knew Ted shows his influence will "live on for a very long time"

through both SPP and the people he knew.

"Professor McAllister's personal philosophy was to courageously challenge all ideologies in the relentless pursuit of truth," Peterson wrote. "He grounded this in a deep and mature Christian faith, which provided the spiritual and intellectual freedom necessary to challenge fashionable intellectual commitments — particularly in the fields of politics and policy."

“

Professor McAllister was constantly challenging his students to pursue truth, but it should be remembered that he challenged himself in this pursuit first and foremost.

Pete Peterson
Dean of SPP

Nate Barton, adjunct professor and Seaver ('16) and SPP ('18) alumnus, as well as former Graphic News editor, said he took at least four courses with Ted while at Pepperdine, where Ted was a large influence on his life.

Ted's style of teaching, Barton said, was to play devil's advocate to provoke introspection and deliberation about "things that matter."

"He had kind of a wrecking-ball style of pedagogy, and that often left me frustrated and unsettled and wondering what I'd gotten myself into," Barton said. "But I think I'm better for it."

Barton said the two had a "back and forth" and went out to lunch to talk about life, in addition to exchanging

emails that reached nearly 3,000 words.

"I look back on the time [he] spent on those and the amount of investment that went into those and — I teach sometimes now — I can't do that with every student," Barton said. "That's an impressive thing and a testament to his approach to pedagogy that he was willing to debate things on that level, even with a first-year grad student."

Years later, Barton said he is still "fumbling around in the brambles of his mind."

"He is a question asker, and he's someone who, if you spent enough time with him, he never really leaves your head," Barton said. "There's a little Professor McAllister in my head that's like, whenever I hear about something new, I'm like, he would say this about that."

Ted was more than just a scholar, Barton said. He was committed to his family. When he entered a room, he made a conversation deeper. and made the conversations of the rooms he entered deeper.

Barton said he saw a side of Ted that "built bridges."

"There's a certain irony in the fact that the person that I disagreed with most was arguably my best and closest mentor at Pepperdine," Barton said. "That alone is kind of a remarkable thing, and it says a lot more about him than it says about me."

A glimpse into faith at Caruso Law

Nora Moriarty-McLaughlin
Staff Writer

The Dean's Bible Study offers Caruso School of Law students a time to worship and opens a space to share faith with one another. Attendees of the two-hour Dean's Bible Study service gather in community, listen to sermons and pray.

Dean of Caruso Paul Caron hosts the Bible study at his on-campus home, where dinner is served at 6 p.m., followed by a guest speaker at 7 p.m. and small group prayer at 7:40 p.m.

Whitney Heuermann, a second-year Caruso School of Law student, said as a first-year law student, she did not miss a Bible study. Heuermann said she considered it her mid-week reset from intense study, and the time allowed her to refresh mentally and spiritually.

"My first year it [the Bible study] was such a cornerstone for me; it was a nonnegotiable time," Heuermann said.

The Dean's Bible Study occurs every Wednesday of the academic year and is open to all Pepperdine students, Caron said. With a new guest speaker each week, students can worship in community and connect with God.

History of Dean's Bible Study

The Dean's Bible Study has been a longstanding tradition at Caruso for 43 years, according to Caruso's website.

With the myriad of academic and

mental challenges of attending law school, having a faith community for sharing and support can make those challenges more manageable, Heuermann said.

Historically, deans have not hosted this Bible study. Over its 43-year existence, hosts varied from professors of law like F. LaGard Smith, the original host, to senior vice chancellors like Ron Phillips to deans like Caron and President Jim Gash, according to Pepperdine's website.

Guest speakers vary each week, and Caron said he does not require them to stick to a theme. This is one way the Bible study differs depending on the host.

"I like asking faculty, and then others, if they have something on their heart that they want to share, to share it," Caron said. "And I like that organic sort of thing."

Mostly law students attend, but students from Graziadio Business School and Pepperdine's Graduate School of Education and Psychology also come, said Ana Rodriguez, third-year law student and President of Caruso's Christian Legal Society. It is the only Bible study a graduate school hosts, Caron said. Therefore students from all of Pepperdine's graduate schools are welcome to attend, Rodriguez said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Caruso held the Bible study virtually over Zoom, Caron said. But attendance numbers sank to under 15 compared to the Bible study's current weekly attendance of around 50 people.

Rodriguez said the virtual Bible study had its benefits because speakers who were not local to Malibu could join, but said it's better to hold the faith gatherings in person.

"It's just nice being in community that way," Rodriguez said.

Benefits for Students

Law students gain several benefits from attending the Dean's Bible Study and participating actively in CLS, Rodriguez said.

Heuermann said she credits the weekly Bible study with helping her survive a grueling first year at Caruso.

"CLS and just that Christian community has been so grounding and knowing that I have people that I can deeply depend on who we connect on a deeper level," Heuermann said.

The intensity of law school can test students' Christian values, Heuermann said, but students said being a part of CLS and the Dean's Bible Study has only strengthened their faith.

"Some people, it either pushes them deeper into their faith, or sometimes it even pushes them away and makes them more cynical," Heuermann said.

While the Bible study offers a place for law students to rejoice, it also opens a space for them to mourn, Caron said.

Evan Carthen, a first-year Caruso student, died unexpectedly in September 2016. In response to this, the Dean's Bible Study invited students to mourn at their Wednesday service, Caron said. Zac Luben, director of Graduate School Ministries, spoke at this service to honor Carthen.

Carthen's friends, family, classmates and professors gathered to celebrate his life, Caron said.

Caron said the community created that night was "magic."

"There is nothing that you can say that explains that or helps in that way, but just kind of being in community," Caron said.

nora.mclaughlin@pepperdine.edu



Photo courtesy of Paul Caron

Caruso School of Law students gather at Dean of Caruso Paul Caron's home in February 2022, to listen to a guest speaker and participate in the Dean's Bible Study. Afterward, students separated into small groups to worship.

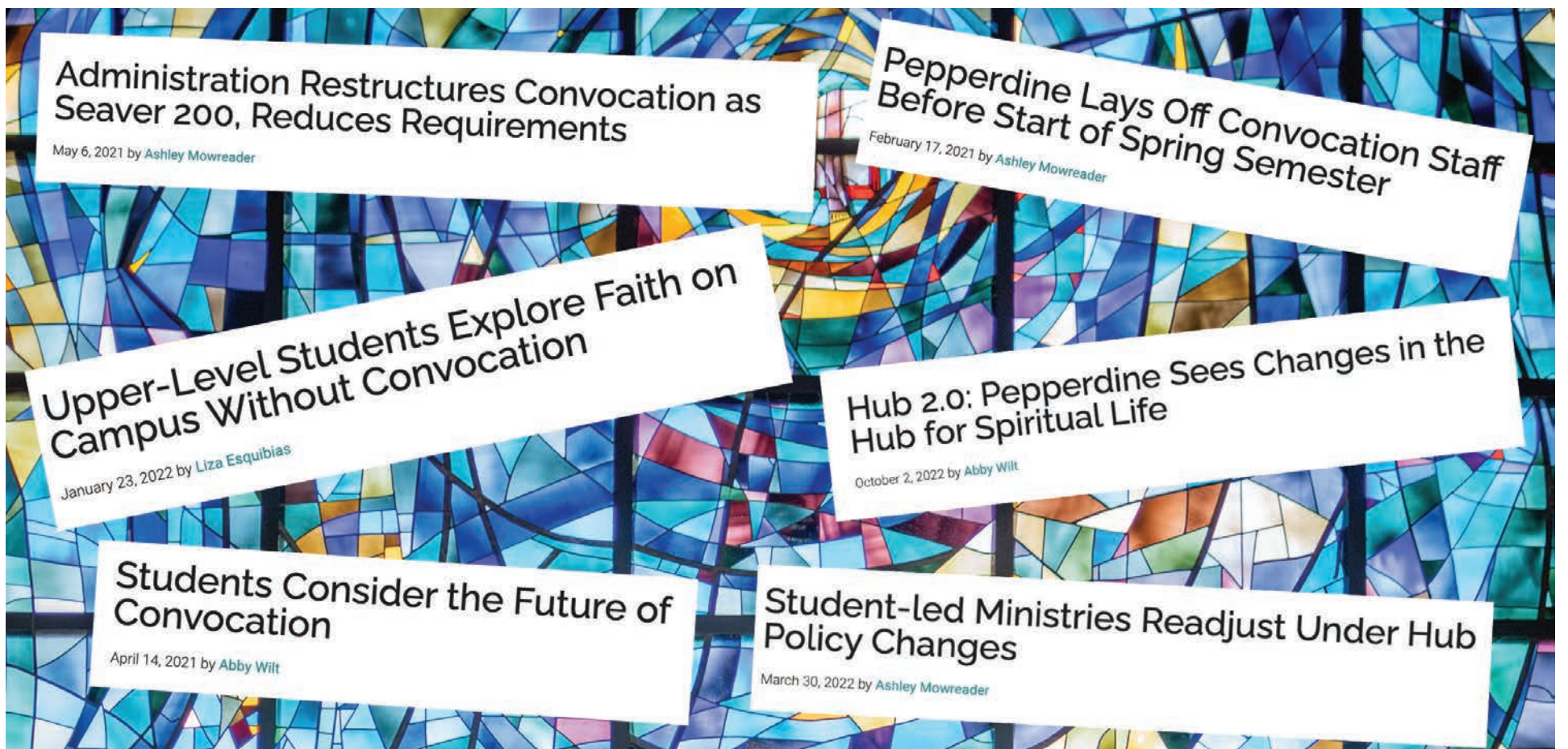


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Seaver 200 to move out of Hub and into Dean's Office

Design by **Sammie Wuensche** | Assistant Photo Editor
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At the start of fall 2023 semester, Seaver 200 will move out of the Hub for Spiritual Life and into the Dean's Office, where Michael Feltner, dean of Seaver College, said he will oversee it.

Seaver 200 is moving because it is a program specifically for Seaver College, Feltner said. With it being under the Dean's Office, they can integrate curriculum from Seaver 200 into classes and vice versa. Seaver 200, which took the place of the University's Convocation credit, is an academic program and the only credit-seeking program not previously under the Dean's Office, Feltner said.

"We will keep going and endeavoring to make sure this is a program that richly contributes to the experience of every single college student," Feltner said.

Feltner said the Dean's Office will continue to partner with the Hub to bring spiritual life activities to campus — still overseeing service outreach, worship gatherings and ministry opportunities.

"The reason for the move had nothing to do with the Hub," Feltner said.

The Dean's Office will oversee Seaver 200 for first and second-year students and the Hub will focus on ministry to juniors and seniors, Feltner said.

"We have amazing partners at the Hub," Feltner said. "They will continue to have a critical role in spiritual life of all students."

History of Seaver 200

Seaver 200, previously known as Convocation, is a 10-week, faith-based program for first and second-year students at Seaver. Students are required to complete the program for their first four semesters, earning 0.5 credits each semester, according to the Pepperdine website.

From 1937 to 1957, the University required all students to attend a daily chapel. In 1957, the requirement shifted to three days per week, then in 1972 to two days per week, according to a 2017-18 Office of the Chaplain program review report.

“It is a way to just further our partnership with the Hub and the University on all spiritual life activities.”

Michael Feltner
Dean of Seaver College

In 1972, the requirement shifted to one day per week — on Wednesdays — for a campus-wide event for faculty and students to gather and worship God, according to the report.

From 1972 to 2021, the Convocation program modified and added in Club Convos and spiritual mentoring, according to the report, while still requiring 14 Convo hours — 0.5 credits at the end of the

semester — for all Seaver students.

Until 2021, Seaver 200 operated under Student Affairs, where it was called Convocation. Student Affairs housed the Office of the Chaplain, according to the report.

University Chaplain Sara Barton oversaw the Office of the Chaplain at this point, which oversaw the Convocation office — including the director of Convocation.

At the start of February 2021, the University laid off the Convocation staff, during a time when Convocation was not a requirement for students due to COVID-19.

On May 3, 2021, the University announced the Hub — a department replacing the Office of the Chaplain and the Convocation office, while shifting from working under Student Affairs to the President's Office.

Barton still oversaw all spiritual life activities, including Convocation, according to previous Graphic reporting.

Three days after, the University announced changes to Convocation — renaming the program Seaver 200 and only requiring credit for first and second-year students rather than all Seaver students, according to a May 3, 2021 email to the Pepperdine community. The program shifted from a 14-week to a 10-week program.

Barton oversaw the new Seaver 200 program for one academic year before transitioning out of the Hub and into the new Office of the Chaplain under the provost in summer 2022. Barton now works with faculty and staff rather than students, according to previous Graphic reporting.

In fall 2022, the Hub hired Cameron Gilliam, director of Student Ministries, to co-host and lead the logistics for Seaver 200. Gilliam wrote in a Sept. 16 email to the Graphic.

The program will now move to the Dean's Office and out of the Hub's oversight. Feltner said the Dean's Office hopes to hire a new director of Convocation by spring break — the last week of February — who will oversee, plan and organize the program.

Feltner also said he formed an advisory committee of students, faculty and staff from the University to inform the office and give feedback on the Seaver 200 program.

"Now what we're doing is returning it to where it was in 2013," Feltner said. "And all times prior to that."

Plans for Ministry

Feltner said the Dean's Office is not planning on huge structural changes to the program — it will still be focused on first and second-year students, while the Hub will focus on ministry to juniors and seniors.

"It is a way to just further our partnership with the Hub and the University on all spiritual life activities," Feltner said.

Parker King, associate director for Discipleship at the Hub, said in an Oct. 30 interview with the Graphic one of his main responsibilities this year is working to provide meaningful faith experiences for juniors and seniors — such as leading the Spiritual Leadership Cohort and offering community gatherings.

Reasons for the Move

One of the main reasons for the move, Feltner said, was so the Dean's Office could oversee and help Seaver 200 align with class curriculum.

Paul Begin, associate dean for Curriculum and General

Education, has worked on revising the General Education program and will now start integrating the Seaver 200 curriculum into classes, Feltner said.

"We want to share at our college to maybe use Convo to elevate the intellectual quality, the student experience," Begin said.

Begin said there is a clear distinction between Pepperdine's academics and its spiritual development and student activities side, but he said, through Seaver 200, professors and students alike can connect their spiritual and academic experiences.

"Convo is our chance to sort of bridge the gap, and bring it together and see it integrated," Begin said.

Goals for the Program

Feltner said he wants Seaver 200 to be a welcoming program that gives students a place to either grow in their faith or enter into a life with God.

"At it's best, Convocation should offer an invitation to every student at Seaver College — freshmen and sophomores — to learn more about the institution, to learn more about our Christian faith and heritage and to consider a Christian life for themselves," Feltner said.

Kindy De Long, associate dean of Seaver College, will also be helping organize and develop the Seaver 200 program and said she has similar goals for students.

"We're hoping to create a conversation where all students, regardless of what perspective they're coming from, will appreciate being part of that conversation," De Long said. "And model what it looks like to think about and to envision life at its fullest."

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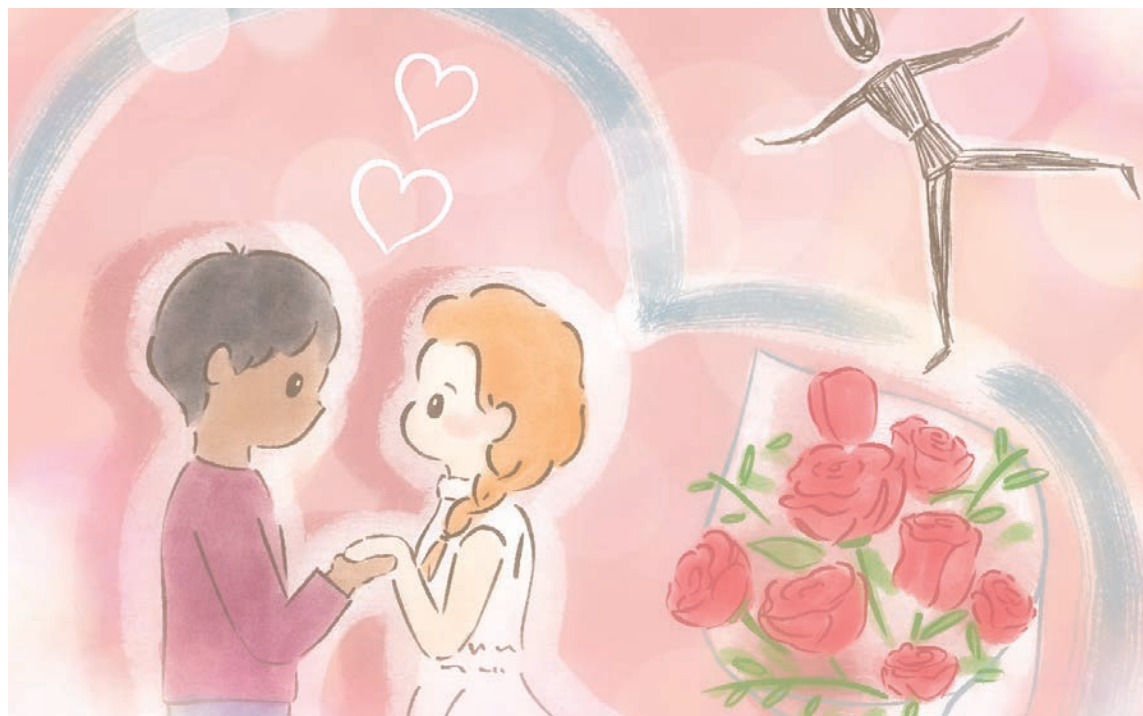


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♥ PERSPECTIVES ♥



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

It's time to spread the love

Graphic Staff

Editor's Note: PGM staff members decide on the topic of a Staff Ed together. The staff as a whole provides opinions and content included in the Staff Ed to provide thoughts and shed light on solutions for happenings at Pepperdine.

Valentine's Day doesn't have to just be a day about relationships, red hearts and chocolates. The Graphic shares what Valentine's Day means to them.

Valentine's Day can be overwhelming for some. And while the day is designed for those in romantic relationships, it can also be an opportunity to spread love to everyone around you.

With the day of love approaching, it is important to remember to celebrate love in all forms — familial, communal, platonic, romantic and self-love.

Love is the thing that guides us, the thing that moves us, so let's all take Valentine's Day to be intentional in the way we love others.

As college students, it is easy to get lost in the motions and lose sight of the importance of showing love and verbalizing our appreciation.

Take today to show appreciation for your friends and the ones in your life.

Tell the ones you love that you love them. Give them words of affirmation, give them their favorite snacks, make them a playlist, write them a letter or wrap them in a warm embrace.

Love your loved ones the way they feel the most loved — and maybe ask them for their love language while you are at it.

Not only is the Valentine's Day season about loving those around you, but also about loving yourself.

Self-love can look differ-

ent for everyone. It could be something as simple as cooking a meal for yourself or calling a loved one you haven't talked to in a while.

Self-love isn't all about self-care — instead, it is about loving who you are and embracing who you are, without shying away from showing others your authentic self.

Self-love can be a tricky concept to master, but the Graphic has a few tips and tricks to help you get started.

We, as the Graphic, aren't perfect at any of these things, but we do try to create an environment in our newsroom that embraces love. We try to lift each other up and love our community by sharing with them stories that make an impact.

peppgraphicmedia@gmail.com

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The Graphic's guide to self-love

1 Go outside. As basic as it sounds, it is easy to get stuck in Payson or your dorm, completing one homework assignment after another. Instead, go outside, touch grass and recognize the beauty surrounding you.

2 Put your phone away and experience true connection. It is OK if you miss a few notifications or don't see everyone's latest Instagram posts the minute they go out. Instead, have real, in-person conversations with those around you, and truly get to know them and their hearts, rather than who they are through a screen.

3 Say no. It is OK to spend a night in, rather than always saying yes to one activity after another. Rest is important, needed and good for you — use it without feeling guilty.



Oman's commitment to clean cities outshines major U.S. cities

Victoria La Ferla
Perspectives Assistant
Editor

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

In recent years, Oman has been gaining attention for having some of the cleanest cities in the world, according to Oman Consulate General in Australia. In comparison, major cities in the United States are struggling with environmental problems such as littering, air pollution and water pollution, according to the American Lung Association.

This raises the question of why Oman has cleaner cities than major U.S. cities and what the United States can learn from Oman's success.

Oman is often viewed as a lesser-known country, but its cities are known for their cleanliness, according to Culture Trip.

This is a stark contrast to many major cities in the United States. This disparity is not due to a lack of resources or economic power in the United States, but rather a difference in priorities and approaches to urban management.

The government has implemented various programs to educate the public on the importance of keeping the environment clean. This has led to a culture where people take pride in keeping their cities clean and are more conscious of their actions.

“

Cleanliness is not just an aesthetic. It is rooted in showing how much you care about something, just like hygiene.

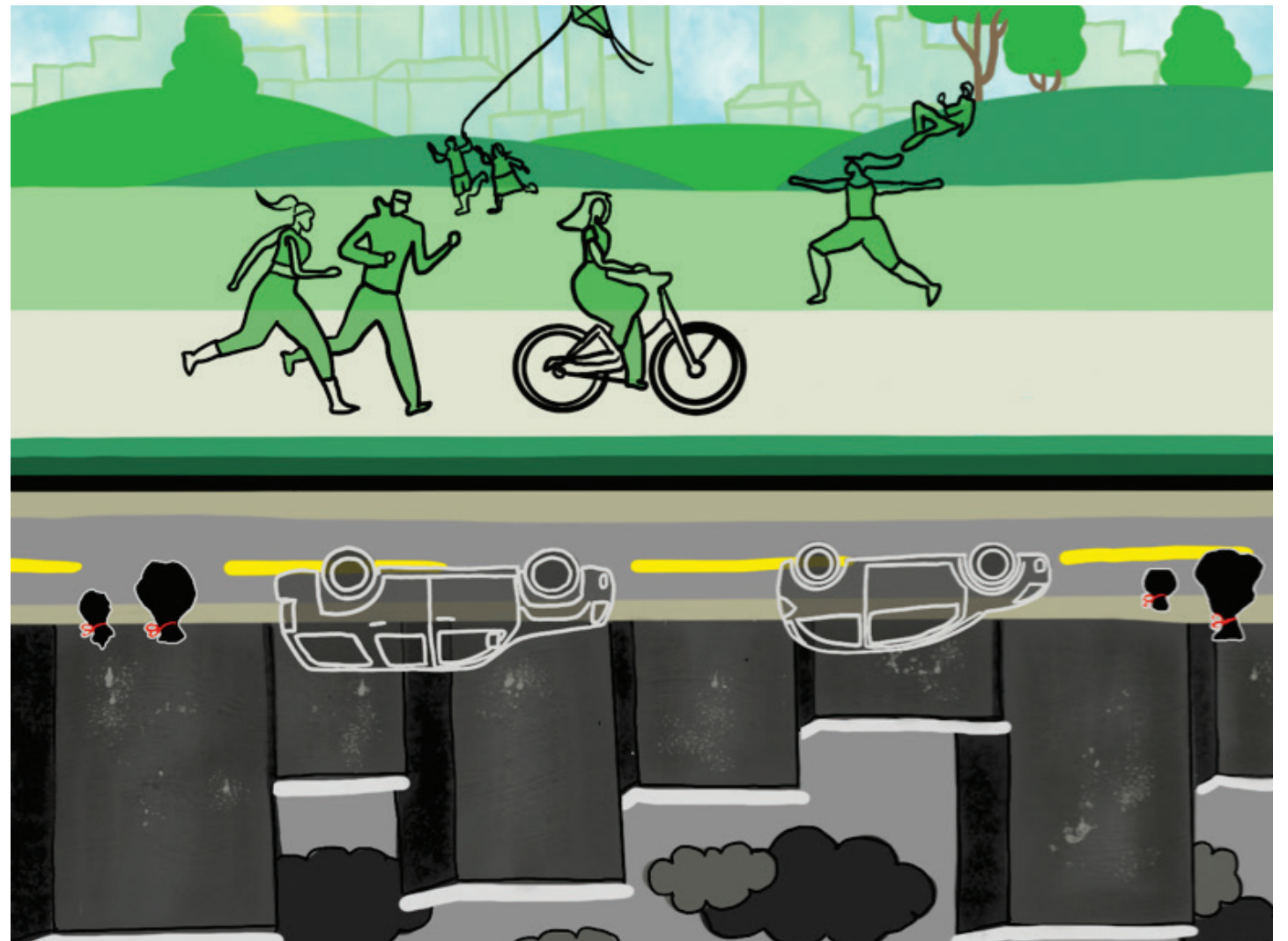
Victoria La Ferla
Perspectives Assistant Editor

In comparison, the United States has a much more relaxed approach to environmental regulations and enforcement. While there are laws in place to prevent littering, they are often not enforced, and the penalties are not severe enough to deter people from littering.

One key factor in Oman's clean cities is its strong government enforcement of regulations and laws regarding waste disposal and littering. Fines for littering are steep and strictly enforced, with violators facing significant consequences, according to Times of Oman.

This has created a culture of responsibility and accountability among the Omani people, who take pride in maintaining the cleanliness of their cities.

Some United States citizens may feel the types of fines and regulations are exaggerated, but that just shows the



Sarah Rietz | Staff Artist

distinct difference between priorities.

In Oman, a person can be fined for littering, driving around their dusty, dirty, or damaged vehicle and forgetting to repaint their building(s) every five years.

In Muscat, Oman's capital, "A fine of OMR 100 will be imposed on anyone who disposes of waste in public places," according to Times of Oman.

Also in Muscat, The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has warned motorists in the Sultanate to keep their cars clean or risk facing fines.

In a statement online ROP said, "The lack of cleanliness of a vehicle or its license plate is a serious traffic violation and is unacceptable behavior. Motorists who fail to do so could incur a fine of OMR10," according to Times of Oman.

In addition to enforcement, the country has modern waste management systems in place, which include a network of waste collection and disposal sites.

The Omani government has invested heavily in infrastructure to support proper waste management. This includes a network of well-maintained trash bins, as well as a sophisticated system for collecting and disposing of waste in an environmentally-friendly manner.

In comparison, major cities in the United States often struggle with outdated waste management systems, which can lead to waste being dumped in landfills or being burned, releasing harmful pollutants into the air.

Oman also places a strong emphasis on sustainability and renewable energy, according to the International Trade Administration. The country has a goal to reduce its carbon footprint and has invested in renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power, according to the International Trade Administration.

In comparison, the United States is

still heavily reliant on fossil fuels, which are a major source of air pollution. The lack of investment in renewable energy sources is a significant contributor to the air pollution problem in major U.S. cities, according to the EIA.

Another key factor is the cultural attitude towards cleanliness in Oman. Cleanliness is valued and viewed as an important part of daily life, and it is not uncommon for citizens to take personal responsibility for keeping their cities clean.

This is evident in the way people dispose of their waste, with many using the trash bins provided and taking care to ensure that litter does not end up on the streets. Oman's cultural and religious values also play a role in its clean cities.

Islam, the dominant religion in Oman, places a strong emphasis on cleanliness and respect for the environment. This cultural value is reflected in the way people behave and take care of their cities.

In comparison, the United States is a culturally diverse country, and environmental concerns are not as prominent in the national consciousness. This can lead to a lack of motivation to keep cities clean and to take action to protect the environment.

There is a lack of enforcement of littering laws in the United States and a lack of investment in waste management infrastructure. This has resulted in a culture of apathy and neglect towards cleanliness, with litter frequently seen on the streets and in public spaces.

When I visited Oman recently, I saw with my own eyes the pride that the Omani people, of all ages, have of their cities and country. The thought of not respecting the space they inhabit is viewed as disrespectful and it was a beautiful thing to witness.

I learned of these cleanliness laws from my tour guide Yahya and he described a feeling of peace that I felt as well because of the clean environment. I visited the gulf, the mountains, the desert and the city — each one more beautiful than the next — and I was able to appreciate the architecture and the nature without it being disturbed by waste.

I wish I could say the same about the United States. When I landed back at JFK airport, on my drive home, it was devastating to instantly see the stark contrast of cleanliness and pride in one's environment.

Some Americans might say "we have different priorities" or "our money should be spent on more important things," but having pride in where one lives, what one surrounds themselves with and how one treats their environment is an essential part of humanity.

Fines are implemented in the United States and should be a priority to be enforced. Perhaps higher fines or a higher penalty will deter people from damaging the city due to the highly enforced consequences.

Cleanliness is not just an aesthetic. It is rooted in showing how much you care about something, just like hygiene. This clearly shows the lack of importance Americans and the government take in the "hygiene of their cities."

The United States can learn from Oman's success by implementing stricter environmental regulations and enforcing them, investing in modern waste management systems and renewable energy and promoting a culture of environmental awareness. By doing so, the United States can help to create cleaner, more sustainable cities for future generations.

victoria.laferla@pepperdine.edu

Stop suffering in silence; start sharing



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Christopher Shon-Andrews
Staff Writer

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

Suffering is inevitable in the lives of all human beings. Christians inherently bear the responsibility of original sin from the fall of Adam.

Even those who don't hold any divine beliefs have come to understand they have to face the struggles of everyday life. There are a myriad of ways to cope with pain, but suffering in silence is not a plausible one.

Regardless of your personal beliefs, you will face suffering. The magnitude of facing that pain might range from staying focused on your homework to accepting the death of the one you love most.

"Great souls suffer in silence," a quote within the play "Don Carlos" by Friedrich Schiller, is a phrase that remains extremely relevant within contemporary times.

Silence and solitude are usually seen as synonymous to each other within the context of this phrase. For some peculiar reason, society conveys the message that extraordinary people must not burden others with their problems.

Yet, this poses arguably one of the most dangerous practices one can

commit against themselves. Human beings were never created to shoulder the immense burden of enduring the trials and tribulations of life alone. We are a highly sophisticated species of life form that requires social interaction. It would be an understatement to say that the act of suffering alone is a crime to oneself, let alone to others.

It's only self-evident that mental health relies on a particular individual's decision to share their struggles. If one decides to share their struggles, it's as if they are metaphorically distributing their suffocating burden. In doing so, their mental health is provided with positive encouragement by knowing that they have a supportive community, even during their darkest hours.

Unfortunately, the wrongly praised norm of suffering in silence seems to be a growing commonality within society. Statistics indicate 40% of men aren't willing to talk about their mental health, which also reflects their indifference for sharing about what they have to deal with according to The Priory Group — a provider of mental health care facilities in the United Kingdom.

There is a dire need to admire vulnerability among those you trust. Share what you are facing, especially if it's of greater importance.

A perfect case that would exemplify the catastrophic consequences of suffering in silence is the COVID-19 lockdown. It's been made clear, through a report given by Harvard University, that loneliness during the mandated lockdown has skyrocketed among men, women and children as well.

What might start off as a lack of

communicating the difficulties of personal struggles may lead to more negative experiences and possibly even an apathetic view toward life.

Now, that isn't to say everyone should be complaining about every minute detail of their day. There is an indisputable underlying truth behind the phrase of suffering in silence.

How would our world make any progress if everybody whined about one particular thing that isn't going their way?

We couldn't. It would be a heinous crime against humanity to fall into believing the whole world is against us.

Here's where things get complicated — despite suggesting you shouldn't complain about trivial matters, that isn't saying to minimize the smaller instances that bring you hardships. Rather, just be aware of what isn't worth ruminating over.

For instance, your friend might've been annoying today. The barista got your order wrong. You stubbed your toe on the bed frame — these are all quite unfortunate.

This might sound insensitive, but nobody needs — nor wants — to hear the complaints of such trivial matters. For such experiences, one can make the exception to suffer in silence.

However, if you find yourself struggling to find the motivation to climb out of bed every morning or even finding a good reason to live, do not feel the need to bear that excruciating pain by yourself. Don't make life harder than it already is.

chris.andrews@pepperdine.edu

'Just pray more' is more harmful than helpful

Faith Oh
Staff Writer

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

"Dear God, please help me not to be anxious. Please forgive me for my sins and lack of faith. I trust in you and your plans for me. I am trying to be better. I don't know when I will be, but please help me to be better. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

That was what I prayed nearly every morning before entering high school. While on its own it seemed harmless, I did not realize it came from a place of deep fear and guilt.

For years, I believed if my faith was strong enough, the anxiety and depression that burdened me daily would be resolved. The verses I took comfort in promised me restoration, but over the years, I only felt worse and worse. What was I doing wrong? Was I just a bad Christian?

What I didn't know then was that there were at least hundreds of other Christians who experienced this as well.

Kintsugi Hope, a mental health charity, surveyed about a thousand Christians of different denominations, and found of the 43% that experienced mental health issues, only 35% felt their church community was supportive, 91% believed mental health remained stigmatized and over half noted it was rarely spoken of in the church, according to Premier Christianity.

Stigma within the church can be subtle, but still harmful. Common examples include telling someone to simply pray, read the Bible more, trust only God to fix it, etc. Oftentimes, this counsel comes from

well-meaning families, friends and advisers.

But these responses to someone's suffering are simply "pat answers," a term used in physician Dwight L. Carson's book "Why Do Christians Shoot Their Wounded? Helping (Not Hurting) Those with Emotional Difficulties." On its own, simply telling struggling Christians to pray and read more is inadequate. There lies the problematic implication that if someone lives a perfect spiritual life, then they should be free of emotional illness.

"An honest answer would have been better than my 'scriptural one,'" Carson said.

As exemplified by my own experience, engaging in more spiritual practice did not cure my mental condition. That is not to say it was harmful or unhelpful. To an extent, my faith kept me going in difficult times. But at the core, I lacked the care and knowledge I truly needed to deal with my emotional turmoil.

Just as we require surgeries, medication and annual checkups for our physical health, we should take steps for our own mental health and be supportive of those who need it as well. Mental illness is not a sin or the result of a lack of faith, but a real, breathing affliction that permeates many, if not every, aspect of a person's life.

If someone opens up about their personal struggles, the best thing someone can do is simply listen. Keep an open mind and heart, embrace them for who they are, and if they ask, offer input and perhaps prayers. It might not feel as "productive" as counseling them right off the bat, but taking the time to listen will speak volumes.

Pepperdine Religion Professor Noemi Palomares also cautions Christians tend to jump into "savior mode."

"It would be a disservice to just put on our



HeeJoo Roh | Staff Artist

Christian hats and say, 'We're gonna love on you, no matter what.' Cause that might take a toll on our own mental health," Palomares said.

Everyone is deserving of love, and my hope is that people may find the courage and receive the care they need. It is by no means an easy journey — some days will feel like square one again. But there is hope, and contrary to what it may feel like, things can get better.

Though I wish my own church had spoken more on mental health, I consider myself very blessed and grateful for the support of my family and friends.

"If your religious space does not affirm your mental health, feel free to find a new one where you can feel safe to share," Palomares said.

faith.oh@pepperdine.edu

Find the positive when consumed by the negative

Emily Chase
Perspectives Editor

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

The news headlines from February have been nothing short of a promise of anxiety for its viewers. They are as follows: “Drink

bottled water, officials tell Ohio town hit by toxic train crash,” “She survived a high school shooting. At Michigan State, it happened again” and “Death toll climbs to 33,000 people in Turkey-Syria earthquake.”

In a world full of negativity, how are we supposed to listen to and understand the notions of staying positive?

To some it might be a burden to live in the world as it is now, not even from a pessimistic standpoint — that’s just how it is for them. However, learning

to see the blessings surrounding our immediate lives and not taking the moments we have for granted are how we, as humans, can learn to lead a more optimistic and hopeful lifestyle.

As a journalist, I find myself constantly taking in recent news that is almost always negative. My mind stays with these stories and the people they are about, and it becomes all-consuming. A popular phrase that swirls around society is “work-life balance.” This can translate across all avenues of life and will ultimately support an optimistic mentality and boosting moral in a low spirited world.

A work-life balance is defined as “the state of equilibrium where a person equally prioritizes the demands of one’s career and the demands of one’s personal life,” according to Business News Daily.

Specifically with that definition, the idea of having priorities can help with surviving the whirlwind of negativity and staying positive. If one prioritizes a family dinner over watching the news, there’s a chance for positivity.

When going out for a walk in nature instead of sitting on a phone, there are more benefits. Prioritizing the environment and people that surround a person on a daily basis can help someone recognize the blessings that inhabit their lives.

Worldwide negativity aside, people have personal struggles they must address, overcome and move on from. That is almost more difficult than reading about the crumbling corners of the world.

Often as a result of being at a Christian university, students are encouraged to turn to classmates, professors, counselors and most importantly, God.

When a circumstance challenges you, ask the question, “Why is this happening?” or “What is this teaching me or going to teach me?” There is a reason for everything in this world — God has a plan, and whether a person is religious or not, there is a meaning to the spiderweb of life events.

When looking at a bleak situation, understand there is an ultimate reason for it and look forward to the growth that will happen as a result. This will save a person a lot of agony and anxiety over it happening in the first place.

When being devoured by the unfortunate world events people so often see, take a step back and smell the air, pray, look at the sky, spend time with the ones you love and count at least three things you’re grateful for. Soon, the thing that occupied your brain and lived rent-free in your mind for so long will start to fade. The more this happens, the more it dissolves into a distant thought.

While it is good to feel negative emotions sometimes and get mad, angry, sad and disturbed, it shouldn’t define an entire person. These things shouldn’t be all you are.

Therefore, thank your loved ones, have faith, smile at the heartache and count the blessings and things you are grateful for and suddenly, life might seem a little less dim.



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

emily.chase@pepperdine.edu

Contributor: Pepperdine alumna visits U.N. climate change conference

Angelea Hayes
Guest Contributor

Transparency Item: This article is written by a guest contributor for the Graphic about her personal experience at this event. Angelea Hayes is a Pepperdine alumna ('22) who is a climate activist from Burbank, Calif.

A year ago, I watched the global climate negotiations take place from afar. At the time, I was struggling with severe climate anxiety. I was grieving the loss of a future I felt did not exist. I was overexposed to negative media and was spiraling, feeling burned out and immobilized by fear.

I felt helplessly disconnected from the room where officials were making decisions regarding my future. I felt I was too young to do anything and nobody of consequence would listen. Now more than ever, I’m sure the voices of young people are crucial to solving the climate crisis.

At the end of 2022, I attended the UN Climate Change Conference, COP27, with an official climate observer badge. I traveled with the Christian Climate Observers Program, an international coalition of individuals of faith involved in climate work.

I had the incredible opportunity to sit in on an exclusive roundtable with the U.S. Delegation to COP27 that Speaker Nancy Pelosi led. Representatives from numerous organizations had the opportunity to voice their concerns.

One of these organizations was Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, an NGO I have had the privilege of working with and which currently has fellows on the Pepperdine campus. Others were the Sierra Club, Earth Uprising, National Congress of American Indians, NAACP, Robert Bullard, Beverly Wright and

Peggy Sheppard — some important players in the movement.

My colleague, Elsa Barron, addressed the panel and shared her faith in the face of the climate crisis. She admitted while the evangelical church has historically been closed off to conversations on climate change, faith communities hold a lot of potential for mobilization. Barron herself demonstrates Christians engaging in climate action that can be incredibly passionate, dedicated and value-driven.

There were representatives from other faith groups, and they echoed her statement that acting on climate is one of the best ways we can love our neighbors like Scripture calls us to. Pelosi remarked that young people of faith have a unique and integral role in influencing their spiritual communities.

As the panel concluded, Pelosi asserted we owe it to children to fight for a safe future. Outside, she approached Barron and I, articulating a need for young people of faith to help “turn the tide in favor of climate action,” especially in the Republican party, by talking to their parents.

About a week and a half after the event, Pelosi announced she would be stepping down as Speaker. Since then, the title has recently turned over to the GOP, proving her sentiment a timely call to action.

My encounter with American political power at COP27 taught me three things:

1. Your actions do matter. Your community is always listening, and they care what you say. You already have access to so many potentially receptive actors, so make it count.

2. The voices of youth specifically do matter, but we can’t solve the crisis alone. This year’s climate conference featured the largest youth presence yet. Youth and the unborn are arguably the biggest stakeholders in the climate crisis. The gap between the concerns of

the next generation and the action being made is closing, but there is still much work to be done.

3. There is so much passion and dedication that already exists in our world. The fact that 44,000 people showed up those two weeks in Egypt is a testament to this. Sometimes, as a young activist, it feels that progress is too slow and that there is nothing being done.

After COP27, I realized I was not alone. The stories of the individuals I met there showed me the power of grassroots activism. There is momentum and a growing movement in faith spaces. God willing, it will only continue to grow.

In the previous weeks, there has been discussion about whether COP27 was a success or a failure, and there are valid arguments for both sides. We must not let the conversation end there. At the very least, take heart in the fact that there will be many more COPs. But, what happens in between the COPs is just as crucial.

My call to action is this: get involved in whatever group you can, like Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, Defend Our Future, Climate Reality Project or any organization in the U.S. Climate Action Network, and tell your state and community representatives to take climate action.

Listen to the voices of the youth — if you are the youth, speak up. The wellbeing of all creation depends on it. Join me in choosing hope over fear and action over despair.

angeleahayes17@gmail.com

RANT



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

No thanks, icky Humboldt Fog cheese

Lisette Isiordia
Designer

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

Hear me out. While I may not be a cheese connoisseur, I do enjoy a wide variety of the delectable dairy product.

A nice sharp white cheddar? Amazing. A creamy brie? Absolutely. A smokey aged gouda? Yes, please. However, Humboldt Fog? Not it for me.

I had high hopes and expectations — I mean, a random man with blue hair had recommended it to Sammie and I in the Ralphs' cheese aisle, and later that evening Sammie was literally eating it by the spoonful. However, when I took a bite, I was instantly confused and repulsed at the experience.

This cheese gave me “the ick,” to say the least.

My taste buds attempted to piece everything together, from its flavor

notes to its texture. Unfortunately, the only conclusion they came to was they never wanted to endure that cheese ever again.

Maybe I just need a more acquired taste? Or maybe I shouldn't take cheese recommendations from a stranger with blue hair when shopping at Ralphs? All I know is this cheese should just disappear into the fog and never come back.

If you want a good cheese, I highly recommend Trader Joe's Unexpected Cheddar. This one takes first place in my books with its crumbly but creamy texture and delightful tangy flavor. It is definitely the ideal selection for an evening charcuterie board or even a cream-based sauce — it should be on your grocery list the next time you're at Trader Joe's.

lisette.isiordia@pepperdine.edu

RAVE



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Humboldt Fog is anything but humble

Sammie Wuensche
Assistant Photo Editor

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

When my friend Lisette and I pulled up to Ralphs to get a tiramisu for our roommate's birthday, I had no idea my cheese-loving life was about to change for the better.

Across the parking lot, I spotted a man, probably in his '60s, with bright blue hair.

I pointed him out to Lisette as we made our way into the store.

Immediately deterred from our tiramisu efforts, I subconsciously made my way to the cheese section and perused the various bries and parmesans.

To my surprise, the mysterious blue-haired man was also looking through the cheeses. He offered me a cheese recommendation.

“This cheese wins the competition

every year,” the stranger said.

I never was able to determine what competition he was referring to.

We walked out of Ralphs with our tiramisu and my newly purchased “Humboldt Fog.”

I am not lying when I tell you this is the best cheese I've ever tasted.

It's decadent, delicious and perfect in every way. While “humble” may be in its name, its flavor is anything but.

Humboldt Fog is perfectly crafted from goat's milk in Cypress Grove, Calif. While I am not normally a fan of goat cheese, this one is different. It's smooth in texture and sharp in taste.

I may not know what competition the Humboldt Fog won, but whatever it was, it deserved it.

samantha.wuensche@pepperdine.edu

BIG WAVES COMIC

Art by Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Written by Luke Franklin | Guest Contributor



LIFE & ARTS

Dance in Flight: Students celebrate 'Symbiosis' through movement

Milena D'Andrea
Staff Writer

Student dancers took to the stage for Dance in Flight in Smothers Theatre from Feb. 9 to 11. The directors landed on the theme of "Symbiosis" to guide their choreography, aesthetic and musical choices, Producer and Campus Programs Coordinator Emily Rauch and Director Maya Kough wrote in the program.

Dance in Flight allows students to assume roles in directing, choreography, production, filming and dancing. Alongside Rauch and Kough, senior Annabella Nordlund was the student director and senior Kate Dalforno was the assistant student director of the show.

The company held auditions in August for dancers of all talents, Rauch and Kough wrote. They wrote they were excited to share the culmination of their six months of creating, rehearsing and refining with the Pepperdine community.

"Symbiosis' represents people from all different backgrounds crossing paths and sharing their passions and love for dance with one another," said sophomore Simone Chaddha, dancer, choreographer and director of marketing.

The theme of "Symbiosis" explored the interactions and ties between counterparts. This theme was portrayed in the titles and visuals of the performances: "community/individuality," "ebb/flow," "control/abandon," "conflict/resolution," "conformity/resistance," "mentor/student," "i/colony," "anxious/avoidant," "water/earth/fire/air," "mother/daughter," "recognition/provision," "inner self/outer self," "body/mind" and "ending/beginning."

"Symbiosis' to me means a sense of community and belonging to a whole," first-year dancer Kaulilikoikekai Abrigo said. "It is the act of relying on each other, so both parties benefit in a harmonious manner."

In between each act, a glowing circle lit the stage with filmed footage of the

dancers paired with simple and repetitive phrases.

"One of my favorite parts of the show is our transition visuals in between the routines," Chaddha said. "Our assistant student director Kate Dalforno filmed the dancers during the Dance in Flight photoshoot from a birdseye view with a drone. The footage came together so well."

Abrigo said dancers in the show spent countless hours rehearsing and dedicated their Saturdays since September to make sure the show was perfect. She said she has been dancing since the age of 2 and Dance in Flight provided her with the perfect opportunity to continue dancing in college.

Similarly, first-year Audrey Costa, dancer and choreographer, said Dance in Flight helped her to quickly find her place within the Pepperdine community.

"Throughout this chaotic world we must find security and support in others," Costa said. "Dance in Flight has been a sense of support and comfort

for me during the transition into college life."

The show included multiple dance styles — jazz, ballet, tap, contemporary, hip-hop and more. The numbers also incorporated many popular songs like "Fireball" by Pitbull, "Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen and "Amazing" by Rex Orange County.

"My favorite parts of the show are Simone's jazz funk number, Annabella's contemporary and all the transition videos," Costa said. "I love all the pieces and genuinely wish I could be in every single one of them."

Dance in Flight had four nearly sold-out shows and sophomore Ava Moreno said the show left a lasting impression on her as an audience member.

"The show was amazing and the artistry was beautiful," Moreno said. "It made me want to take up dancing again."

Abrigo said the show embodies the "Symbiosis" through a shared passion for dance. She said the dancers have to rely on each other to express their combined joy outwardly with the audience.

"My favorite moment when performing is waiting on stage for the curtain to come up," Abrigo said. "It reminds me of the thrill of not only dancing but why I love to dance — to express the message and stories through movement in hopes that the audience will be moved."

milena.dandrea@pepperdine.edu

Sammie Wuensche | Assistant Photo Editor

Dancers performing in Dance in Flight. This dance titled "Ebb/Flow," was in the first act.



Dance in Flight

Students perform in various dances in Dance In Flight. The show captured the theme of "Symbiosis" and used movement to explore the interactions between counterparts.



"recognition/ provision"



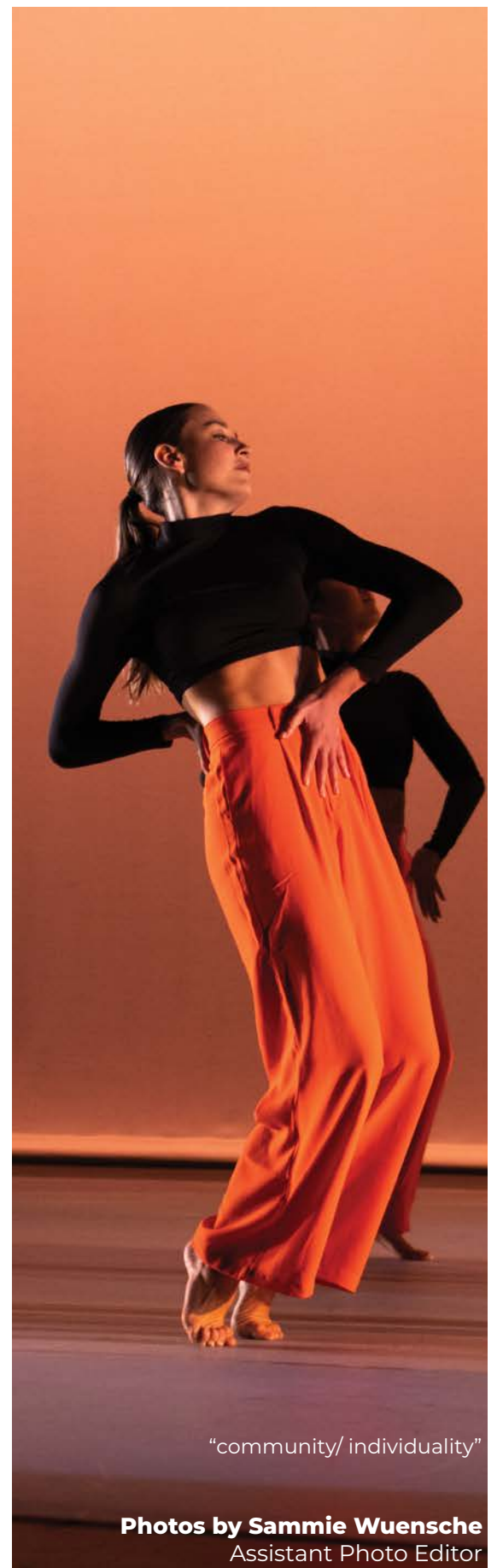
"mother/ daughter"



"ending/ beginning"



"mentor/ student"



"community/ individuality"

Photos by **Sammie Wuensche**
Assistant Photo Editor



Walking in Faith:

Pepperdine students share their spiritual journeys

Lauren Goldblum
Staff Writer

Since 1937, Pepperdine has embraced its founding principles of encouraging students to live lives full of faith and purpose, according to the school's History webpage. While the school remains committed to its roots in the Churches of Christ, the spiritual life on campus reflects a diverse community consisting of a multitude of faiths and religious backgrounds, according to the University's vision.

Students have said Pepperdine has given them the ability to elevate and affirm their spiritual identity. Yet, others said they face challenges navigating a network of various branches of Christianity.

Senior Nick Barron and junior Zacharias Tapp said their time at Pepperdine shaped their faith through both community and worship.

"I think it's [Pepperdine] made me stronger in my faith because it's taught me to really develop my own personal relationship with the Lord," Barron said.

Barron said his walk with Jesus did not start at Pepperdine. Rather, he said his transition into campus life posed a challenge when adjusting to a community where believers expressed their faith differently than his church back home in south Florida.

"My spirituality was defined by that tangible experience with God and when I came to Pepperdine that's actually not how people really experienced their faith," Barron said. "That was really hard for me and that's kind of been a huge part of my journey at Pepperdine."

Barron described his home church as a circle of charismatic Christians who "believe and have a sense of a living,

moving and active Holy Spirit."

Barron said Pepperdine's diverse spiritual life on campus strengthened his faith. It encouraged him to develop his own personal relationship with the Lord outside of Bible studies, church and the culture of the University, he said.

Since his first year at Pepperdine, Barron said he enjoyed active involvement in multiple spiritual life activities on campus. These include taking part in student-led ministry Word Up, serving as a spiritual life adviser and The Well — a weekly spiritual gathering that includes singing and a brief message from various speakers.

During his junior year, Barron gained an official position with the Hub for Spiritual Life as a worship leader and mentor, helping students grow in their relationship with the Lord. Barron said he encourages students to cultivate their own intimate relationships with Jesus — independent from what others around them may believe.

Barron said he is grateful for the relationships he has gained through his involvement with the Hub. He said he enjoys writing congregational worship songs and creating new projects with his co-leaders to continually deepen and improve the spiritual life on campus.

"I've been learning to navigate how to still be Christian and still walk in faith with other people, that's been a huge journey for me too — coming out of a bubble," Barron said.

Tapp said Christianity has always been a central part of his life, but it was not until eighth grade where he began to seek a more personal connection with God.

Tapp was raised in Las Vegas and attended a Pentecostal church — a branch of Christianity that focuses on

the movement and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to an article by the Pew Research Center. Like Barron, Tapp said this was an experience he found very different when transitioning to Pepperdine.

Tapp's parents were actively involved in their local church and he said his family felt called to open their own church when he was still in middle school. Adjusting to a new church community was difficult, Tapp said, as his previous church had always felt like home to him. Yet, he said he was honored to see God move in his family's life.

“
I think it's
[Pepperdine] made
me stronger in my
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taught me to really
develop my own
personal relationship
with the Lord.

Nick Barron
Senior

"It's just really fulfilling to see where it [the church] started and where it's at now and just how many people's lives were affected so it's been really cool," Tapp said.

Tapp said he was most drawn to Pepperdine because of its emphasis on community and the lasting impact on students' lives during both their time at Pepperdine and post-graduation. The

Colton Rubsamen | Staff Photographer

The Well worship team performs songs of praise in the Amphitheatre on Jan. 26. The worship team performs during The Well service every Thursday evening during the academic year.

school's diverse student body allowed Tapp to engage with others from all walks of life and experience the many expressions of Christianity.

Tapp said he's realized each student has a unique relationship with God that's conveyed differently — whether it's through group worship, discussions with others or basking in the intimate quietness of alone time with God.

"I think the community at Pepperdine has just exposed me to so many different perspectives and views and ways of practicing Christianity and serving God which I think is the best part of Pepperdine," Tapp said.

Tapp's role in the Hub began when he applied for the Spiritual Leadership Cohort Scholarship, which he described as a selective group of eight-to-nine students serving as spiritual leaders on campus. Recipients take on a variety of leadership roles such as leading worship ministries and working in the Hub office.

Tapp attributes the most transformational piece of his journey to his mentor, Worship Director Ko Ku, who leads the Pepperdine worship band in weekly praise and worship during The Well.

"He [Ku] just really takes the time to get to know students beyond their musical talents," Tapp said. "He just genuinely cares about students and [makes] sure that they're emotionally and spiritually OK."

Both Barron and Tapp said their time at Pepperdine has been a season of growth and an opportunity to expand their perspective on what it means to walk through life with Jesus.

lauren.goldblum@pepperdine.edu

New year, new trends: Students spill current social media styles

Lauren Goldblum
Life & Arts Assistant

California may be exempt from the bitter frostbite and blinding snowstorms that pervade many Midwest and East Coast states. However, that doesn't stop Californians from breaking into the latest trends this winter season, according to a Who What Wear blog post.

Many of the current top trends crept into society through popular influencers and fashion icons parading their new must-have staples on platforms such as Instagram and TikTok, according to an article by Forbes.

While social media platforms such as TikTok can provide a fun way to engage with the most recent trends, senior Emily Castillo also cautioned against becoming too influenced by social media.

"If someone is carried on by technology and by social media I think that's dangerous because some things could be triggering for some people," Castillo said.

While some of these trends have garnered much attention and are here to stay, others appear less practical and students said they question whether they're worth the investment. Students shared how certain items such as the Ugg Tazz Slippers, Stanley cups, belt bags, cosmetic products and more are some of the most popular yet controversial products on social media.

Senior Jasmine Tapia said she is a keen observer of rising fashion trends, stemming from both social media and her job at Lululemon. Working at Lululemon, she said she notices many of their athletic products reflect the increasing popularity of specific trends across other brands such as their bags and straight-leg pants.

Tapia said skinny jeans no longer hold the high status they received in previous years as many public influencers have recently been featuring a more '90s style look. Tapia said several of Lululemon's new products, such as their Loungeful Straight Leg and Groove Super High-Rise Flared Pant are embracing this trend.

Tapia also said Lululemon's Everywhere Belt Bag, which launched in 2018, has become immensely popular on social media — the same bag that was listed as the number one best belt bag in an article by the New York Post. While Tapia said she is in favor of the rising trends in athletic wear, she remains hesitant about others.

"One trend I think is kind of

overhyped is the Stanley cups just because I feel like it's not realistic to carry them throughout your day," Tapia said.

Tapia said the awkward handles, large straws and bulky size are all characteristics that can't compete with smaller and more nimble water bottles such as Hydroflask.

Named the fastest-growing equipment accessories brand by the New Product Development, the new Stanley Tumbler has become the new must-have essential after digital content creators raved about the new quencher online, according to The New York Times.

"Mostly TikTok is where I see all the trends but a lot of ads do come up on Instagram," Castillo said.

An artist at heart, Castillo said art-based posts on social media featuring colorful creations on various objects inspired her. This led her to display her own style and passion for art on both her clothes and everyday essentials.

"I followed a lot of Bob Ross' ways of painting on water bottles and added my own twist to it," Castillo said.

Realizing that her water bottles could become her new canvas in 2017, Castillo then began commissioning her own in 2019 and has continued ever since. Castillo also shares her personal designs on her art-based Instagram account.

Castillo is not the only one turning to TikTok for trend inspiration. The mainstream video-sharing platform has been elevated beyond just be-



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Senior Emily Castillo poses with her painted Hydroflask and art club hoodie on Main Campus on Feb. 14. Castillo said art-based social media posts and Bob Ross' paintings inspire her work.



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Junior Peyton Stewart poses with her makeup on Main Campus on Feb. 14. Students shared the recent trends that have emerged from social media and influencers.

ing a popular site used between friends — it's also a massive marketing platform for products, such as Ugg's Tazz Slippers.

The Tasman slippers gained immense popularity and sold out online multiple times after going viral on TikTok with more than 13 million views under the hashtag #uggtasman-slippers, according to an article by Forbes.

Social media doesn't stop at fashion trends. Castillo also mentioned a new up-and-coming trend she's noticed are pH makeup products such as Tarte's maracuja juicy lip & cheek shift. This iconic lip product is fully customized to adapt to each customer's unique shade and can be used as both a lip product and a blush, according to Tarte's website.

Junior Peyton Stewart is an avid Instagram, YouTube and TikTok user and frequently turns to these platforms to keep up with the newest rising trends. Stewart said one of the most popular trend influencers is Alix Earle — a fashion and cosmetics icon, known for her content on TikTok and Instagram.

"The reason that she's so

trendy is she's super relatable," Stewart said. "Not many of us can relate to a girl that's going to Drake's birthday party in Miami, like that's the kind of girl that she is, but she's so down to earth."

With more than four million followers on TikTok, Earle's large sphere of influence allows her to effectively promote new emerging products such as the Rare Beauty liquid blush. Earle posted a TikTok video of her makeup routine featuring the cream-based blush Feb. 8. Stewart said the product is one of the most up-and-coming trends after Earle's video reached over 180,000 views.

"Skincare is a huge thing for me because it's part of my day where I can just relax and I think it's a really good trend because trends can sometimes be super toxic," Stewart said.

While Stewart is a huge fan of makeup and skincare products, she also keeps up with trends outside the fashion and cosmetics industry. Specifically, Stewart said the 12-3-30 workout routine has been circling on social media recently. Inspired by social media influencer Lauren Giraldo, this seemingly simple routine has become the new go-to exercise regimen for those new to the fitness realm or just starting out on their health journey, Stewart said.

"The results from it are insane," Stewart said. "It sounds super easy but if you try to do it, it's really hard."

While many fitness routines involve intense cardio or heavy weights, Stewart said she appreciates Giraldo's program because it is easier on muscles and joints and sparks confidence in those who may be less experienced gym-goers.

Social media has made substantial bounds in recent years not only for networking and virtual connection but also as a platform for creating global influence. While some students embrace the world of influencer culture, others remain skeptical of becoming overly immersed in the frenzy of trends.



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Stewart's makeup, which includes the Rare Beauty liquid blush. Stewart said social media influencer Alix Earle has contributed to recent popularity with certain makeup products.

lauren.goldblum@pepperdine.edu

Galentine's Day gatherings solidify friendships

Emma Ibarra
Staff Writer

Every Feb. 14, couples traditionally celebrate their love with standard romantic tactics such as going out to dinner and buying more roses and chocolate than usual.

However, trends of self-love and admiration have inspired the celebration of Galentine's Day, a rival holiday to Valentine's Day that addresses friendship — a love which is often swept under the rug, first-year Delaney Dickey said.

"I think the connotation is that Valentine's Day is more romantic, and Galentine's Day is more friendly," Dickey said. "But I think if you don't have that romantic aspect of your life, Valentine's Day has a more friendly connotation anyway, so I think it's situational."

With platonic love being integral to one's life, Feb. 13, has been established as National Galentine's Day, according to National Today. Valentine's Day may draw attention to one's romantic life and significant others, but Galentine's Day allows friends to healthily declare their friendly love for one another without having to

fuss over amorous specifics.

Students said the holiday is a refreshing and reaffirming celebration of their personal relationships with friends, families and other non-romantic companions who make life more enjoyable.

Students explored all the possibilities of the Galentine's and Valentine's seasons through celebrations with friends. Junior Fransheska Companioni-Daroch said she hosted a Galentine's Day dinner with 12 of her closest friends over Valentine's Day weekend to show her appreciation for her platonic pals.

"Life is better lived when you celebrate it, and Galentine's is the perfect opportunity to celebrate your favorite people," Companioni-Daroch said.

Dickey also attended the Galentine's Day gathering and expressed her admiration for the event's aesthetic V-Day decor and food selection.

"It was super Instagram-y, and super cute," Dickey said. "We tried to make heart-shaped pizzas and they didn't turn out very well, but Fran's killed it."

As the two girls laughed

humbly about one another's pizza-shaping skills, Companioni-Daroch shared her story on why Valentine's Day is special to her.

"I feel like my family always does something, like my dad and brother will go out and get my mom and me Valentine's presents, which has always been a really cute tradition," Companioni-Daroch said.

Students said there is multiple ways to spend the holiday, whether that's with friends, significant others or alone. Companioni-Daroch said the meaning of Valentine's Day changes each year for her.

"I guess it just depends on where I'm at in my life and what's going on," Companioni-Daroch said. "Valentine's Day means love to me. Every kind of love."

Dickey agreed and expressed how her sorority, Tri Delta, is working to include everyone in the love during Valentine's Day season.

"Tri-Love is Tri Delta's extension to the community at Pepperdine, so it just has little things that people can just come up and do— just to kind of bring more community aside from just the exclusivity



Photo courtesy of Tri Delta Instagram

Mia Boyd, Ellie Torgerson and Morgan Purdy (left to right) pose for a photo outside of the Caf in September. Tri Delta hosted a variety of events for Tri-Love Week in honor of Valentine's Day.

of Greek life," Dickey said.


The organization's week-long event will last from Feb. 13 to 17, and Dickey said students are encouraged to enjoy daily activities on main campus that promote love and inclusion within the Pepperdine community.

While students may feel loneliness this Valentine's Day season, Dickey said it's import-

ant to remember just how significant platonic love is in one's life.


"I think Valentine's Day is a reminder to think about the relationships that you have and cherishing them," Dickey said.

emma.ibarra@pepperdine.edu



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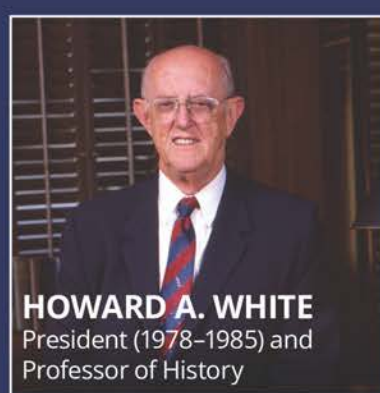


Please take a few moments to consider that one very special professor from your Pepperdine days and submit your nomination. More information about the award and an online nomination form can be found at


pepperdine.edu/provost/awards

Nomination deadline is March 31, 2023

Stephen Kirnon
2022 Recipient, Howard A. White Award for Teaching Excellence
Professor, Education Division, Graduate School of Education and Psychology



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Coaches contract deals can provide continuity

Jerry Jiang
Sports Editor

Pepperdine Women's Indoor Volleyball Head Coach Scott Wong has called Malibu his home since 1998. As a student-athlete, he led the Waves to two Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Tournament Championships and played in three NCAA Tournaments, according to Pepperdine Athletics.

As head coach, Wong saw three straight NCAA tournament appearances from 2020 to 2022, according to Pepperdine Athletics.

Wong signed a contract extension through the 2027 season, Pepperdine Athletics announced in a press release Jan. 23.

Wong said extending a player or a coach's contract long-term could make for a positive impact on a team's performance.

"If it's a head coach, or a couple of players, any big transition can hurt a team's success and the continuity," Wong said. "The biggest thing is the continuity of a team."

Coaches Extended at Pepperdine

Along with Wong, Pepperdine Women's Golf Head Coach Laurie Gibbs signed a contract extension through the 2028 season, Pepperdine Athletics announced in a Jan. 27 press release. Women's Golf placed sixth at the NCAA regional last season.

The beauty of college sports is the team is different every year, Wong said.

"A head coach can help stabilize a team as it sets the vision that lays out expectations and walks within the steps of trying to be more and more successful every year," Wong said. "It's really important in terms of that continuity piece."

Gibbs wrote she had no thoughts of leaving Pepperdine when she signed the extension. She plans to retire from coaching at Pepperdine, Gibbs wrote in a Feb. 1 email to the Graphic.

Gibbs wrote there have been a number of Power Five schools trying to recruit her over the years.

"I have been exceptionally happy coaching at Pepperdine," Gibbs wrote.

From Player to Coach — Coach Wong's History at Pepperdine

Wong's history with Pepperdine started in 1998, when Wong played for the Men's Volleyball team. After his playing career, he transitioned into coaching, where he was an assistant to then-Head Coach Marv Dunphy for four seasons from 2005 to 2009, according to Pepperdine Athletics.

Wong said he knew Director of Athletics Steve Potts when Potts was the assistant athletic director. As a student athlete, Wong said there was some familiarity, but said it's a little different on the coaching side in terms of responsibility and perspective.

"All of it helped prepare me to be in a pretty good spot," Wong said. "To not only have that conversation but to feel confident enough knowing what I had to do in order to carry this program forward during my tenure."

Building a relationship with Potts helped during the contract extension conversation, Wong said. Wong said there are around 10 years of experience

between him and Potts.

"The conversation just started, 'Hey, I want to stay here,'" Wong said. "[It was] pretty straightforward and simple. And then, we just worked towards an agreement and a contract."

“
If it's a head coach, or a couple of players, any big transition can hurt a team's success and the continuity.

Scott Wong
Women's Indoor Volleyball
Head Coach

Gibbs Stays Loyal to Pepperdine

When then-Athletic Director Wayne Wright interviewed Gibbs in 1993, Gibbs had a proposal for the program that included raising money, increasing scholarships, finding more golf courses, playing in top tournaments and recruiting players that could be All Americans and Academic All Americans, Gibbs wrote.

Wright was surprised with Gibbs' proposal and asked if she really believed she could achieve all of her goals. Gibbs wrote she was very confident, and the University hired her soon after.

Gibbs wrote the team's success is in great part due to the young women who have represented Pepperdine Women's Golf. She wrote she is proud of the consistency and organization of the program over the past 30 years. Recruits and parents love Pepperdine's family environment and know there is stability within the program, Gibbs wrote.

Players Versus Coaches

Ned Colletti, executive in Residence in Sports Administration, spent six years as general manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Before then, he was the assistant general manager of the San Francisco Giants from 1994 to 2015, according to LinkedIn.

In the summer of 2014, Colletti signed Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw to a seven-year, \$215 million deal, which was the largest contract a pitcher had signed up to that point, according to Bleacher Report.

"As somebody who had won three Cy Young [awards] and a National League Most Valuable Player, [he's someone who's] very rare, an outstanding person [and] a competitor," Colletti said. "Every category you want to put out there, he'll check the box at the highest level."

Colletti said there are far more executives who would aspire to be managers than there are in closer proximity talent-wise than players.

In the MLB, there are currently 30 managers — one for every club, according to Baseball Reference. As for the players, there were 1,250 players to start the 2022 MLB season, according to Statista. Each team is allowed 26 players on their roster, according to MLB.

"There's only so many elite players, I mean, elite," Colletti said. "Anybody that can play in the big leagues is elite.



Caitlyn Garcia | Staff Photographer

Pepperdine Women's Indoor Volleyball huddles together during a timeout versus Santa Clara on Oct. 7, in Firestone Fieldhouse. Head Coach Scott Wong boasts a 144-87 overall record, according to Pepperdine Athletics.

Then, in that category, you've got elites among the elite. But, executive [coaches] have far fewer choices, far more competition for positions than players do."

A general manager knows what they've seen from a player's standpoint, Colletti said.

"You know their habits — you know their work ethic. You know how they prioritize. You know them," Colletti said. "And, so that leads you in one direction or another, and if it leads you to an extension, it leads you to a term and dollar figure that, in your mind, represents the contributions of the person/player for extension."

As for the managers, Colletti said he determined the success of a manager from record and strategy but also by how hard and fundamentally soundly the team plays.

"That is usually a direct result of a manager and a coaching staff," Colletti said. "Many times, it's an indicator. If you have a team that maybe lacks talent to compete, but they play hard and are fundamentally sound — that goes to the players."

Colletti said it also goes to the leadership's credit.

"That's really one of the things that, in my opinion, they're responsible for," Colletti said. "It's teaching the game and making sure players execute it and making sure the players pay attention."

Contract: Before and Now

The biggest difference he's seen from his career to now in Major League Baseball is the years with extensions, Colletti said.

"Seeing the extensions that are 10 years or longer were very rare in my career," Colletti said.

Colletti said a three or four-year extension was considered a long extension.

"Five years was really long," Colletti said. "We got into an era of about 10 or 15-year contracts. Before, six or seven years was the going rate. But, now, you see numerous players sign for over 10 years, and it's always a gamble."

The influx of revenue, television, regional sports networks, tickets and sales has grown the sport of baseball magnificently through many decades, Colletti said.

"If I go back all 40 years, certainly

the rate of pay has changed dramatically," Colletti said. "The highest-paid player was making was 60% of what the lowest-paid player would make today."

Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout currently holds the longest baseball contract in the MLB, according to Spotrac. Trout signed 14-year extension worth \$430 million in the 2019 offseason, according to MLB.

Unlike the other major sports leagues such as the NBA, NHL or NFL, the MLB does not include a salary cap when signing players or coaches. The salary cap is a limit to which the employee can earn, according to Sport Management Degrees Guide.

The New York Yankees' payroll was over \$210 million in 2020, according to Dodger Blue. In contrast, the Golden State Warriors payroll in the 2022-23 season was over \$123,655,000, marking it the highest payroll in the entire NBA, according to HoopsHype. Warriors guard Stephen Curry is the highest-paid player in the 2022-23 season, and his "super-max" contract was a four-year, \$215 million deal, according to Boardroom.

Favorite Memories

Wong said what means the most to him about coaching is building relationships.

"The relationship I and our coaches have with our players in the team and our players amongst each other," Wong said. "So, I think it's pretty neat to experience."

The neat part about being a coach is seeing the players who have graduated and moved on starting to get married and having kids, Wong said.

"We try to have the team over to my house," Wong said. "They're my family, and the team are pretty integrated, and so they get to know me really well, and then, to be able to go to a wedding and have these past players all there and just be able to experience that, and that's happened a couple of times."

L.A. hosts 2023 NASCAR Clash event

Jerry Jiang
Sports Editor

The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum hosted the Busch Light NASCAR Clash on Feb. 5, as NASCAR is celebrating its diamond year — the 75th anniversary of the sport.

Though this is a preseason event, there's still quite a bit at stake with the Clash, according to NBC Sports. Last year, Team Penske driver Joey Logano won the Clash — ousting Richard Childress Racing driver Kyle Busch. Logano won the 2022 NASCAR Cup Series.

This year, it was Joe Gibbs Racing driver Martin Truex Jr. who drove away with the victory. Truex Jr. fought off Richard Childress Racing driver Austin Dillon in a split .786-second margin. Truex Jr. led the way for the last 25 laps of the 150-lap race in the preseason event. Logano — last year's winner — came in 16th.

"We're one for one right now," Truex Jr. said. "That's a good way to start. The Daytona 500 is a huge race. It's the biggest race of the year for us, and to go there with momentum is great. [We've] been really close there before. It'd be an awesome one to check off the list."

The 22-year veteran was shut out from a playoff appearance after winning 29 races between 2015-2022, according to CBS Sports.

"Martin's a different person right now," crew chief James Small said. "He's super motivated. And we're all behind him. You saw it when we got it right. Today is what we're capable of."

Drivers — Start Your Engines

For the past 47 years, the preseason event was held at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. This was the second year NASCAR switched venues to Los Angeles. NASCAR transformed USC's football field into a .25 mile-wide track, according to USA Today.

"It's all very challenging with a quarter-mile racetrack," said Todd Gilliland, Front Row Motorsport Ford driver. "I feel fortunate. This is kind of what I grew up racing on more out here on the west coast. But, for a lot of these guys, it's the most challenging thing — just getting used to the small track and all



Drivers line up ahead of the NASCAR Clash at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Feb. 5. Though the event was a preseason race, fans and drivers packed the Coliseum to see the show.

that goes along with that."

Besides the main event, the festivities also included the qualifying heat. Drivers will have to compete in one of four heat races in order to qualify for the main event, according to USA Today. Musician Wiz Khalifa also performed the halftime show.

"It's always a cool event for us to get our season started doing something different than what we normally do," Steward-Haas Racing driver Chase Briscoe said. "It's a cool atmosphere with the Coliseum and everything the game represents. It's a great way for us to start off the season."

The excitement for everyone was really high, Gilliland said, because the race was an exhibition event and won't count for points in the NASCAR Cup Series.

"That's something that is really cool about NASCAR — everyone comes here with such high hopes," Gilliland said. "Some guys have good seasons, some guys have bad [seasons], but, at least at this point, everyone's excited about what's to come."



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Joe Gibbs Racing driver Joey Logano smiles as he prepares for the NASCAR Clash at the Los Angeles Coliseum on Feb. 5. Logano won the NASCAR Clash in 2022 and eventually won the NASCAR Cup Series.

Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

In addition to the shorter track, NASCAR added four more drivers to the fold — making the total participants 27 instead of the 23 in 2022. As a result of the short track and the increased drivers, there were a total of 12 caution flags in the race, four before the halfway point.

"Everybody knows there's going to be contact," Dillon said. "It was just back and forth. It knocked the wheel out of my hands."

Dillon got into a squabble with 23XI Racing driver Bubba Wallace as the race was winding down. Dillon and Wallace were neck-and-neck, and as Wallace was just about to edge Dillon, Dillon got the better of Wallace, and Wallace spun, hitting the fence, according to Racing News.

Wallace complained to NASCAR with some expletives, according to AP News. But, Busch said it didn't feel much different.

NASCAR Keeps on Innovating

Additionally, NASCAR and Ally Financial Inc. announced a league-wide sponsorship during a press conference before the race. The combined effort will expand the financial institution's presence in the sport with Ally Bank being the Official Consumer Bank of NASCAR and NASCAR owned-tracks, according to a press release. Alex Bowman — the main athlete sponsoring Ally — had been supporting the company since 2019.

Ally helped increase the popularity of racing in Nashville, Tenn. By having Bowman as its lead athlete, Ally was able to help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in an effort to rescue animals with the Best Friends Animal Society, according to the press release.

"It's super cool to see Ally and NASCAR teaming up," Bowman said in an interview with host Monica Palumbo. "Obviously, everyone's better off with Ally. I'm really excited for them, and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Andrea Brimmer, Ally's chief marketing and public relations officer, said they loved every minute of the ride since becoming a sponsor of No. 48, from

seeing the growth in popularity of the sport to the increased diversity among team ownership.

"The timing couldn't be better for us to complement our wonderful relationship with Hendrick Motorsports by expanding our footprint as an official NASCAR sponsor," Brimmer said in the press release.

As for the rest of the season, NASCAR continues raise the bar, Briscoe said. Similarly to the Clash, NASCAR will host another event with a unique track called the Chicago Street Race on July 1-2. Instead of a traditional race track, drivers will be racing through the heart of downtown Chicago, according to Nascar Chicago.

"I think it's really cool for them to kind of do something different," Briscoe said. "Racing in the Chicago streets is something that we've never done before as an industry, so it'll be really cool to be a part of that event."

Looking Ahead in NASCAR

Though the Clash is one of NASCAR's most anticipated events, Small said he thinks it should always be an exhibition.

"I'm not sure in the way our championship works and everything," Small said. "I don't know how you could structure it to be fair to everybody. How do you have competitive pit-stops [when] you can't even fit the whole field on?"

With Truex Jr. winning the Clash, he said he's been more determined and has a lot of "fire in his belly" to go out and change what the team did last year.

"It's just nice when it all works out, and you come to the track, and things go the way you hoped they would, and hopefully we can do a lot more of that," Truex Jr. said.

Catch NASCAR's next race in the fabled Daytona 500 on Feb. 16, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Athletes share their tattoo stories

Alex Clarke
Staff Writer

Tattoos can be a way for people to showcase the most important aspects of who they are and where they come from.

Six Pepperdine athletes said they represent the most important aspects of their lives with permanent tattoos.

“You can get a painting and have it on your house somewhere, but being able to put something permanent on your body is showing beauty,” Men’s Water Polo junior center Travis Reynolds said.

Matt Quintanar - Baseball

The date June 13 is particularly important to Quintanar, he said as he pointed to the tattoo on his forearm.

“[June 13] is my sister’s birthday. She shares the same birthday with my dad, and she passed away my freshman year of high school,” Quintanar said. “I cared very much for her and would do anything to talk to her again.”

For Quintanar, he said he views his sister as an inspiration.

“[I looked up to her] trying to become a good college student,” Quintanar said. “She was a social worker at a hospital. She had gone to school for five years and got her Master’s and also had two kids, who live with us now.”

Quintanar said his favorite memory with his sister was during Thanksgiving.

“We would always play Apples to Apples with my family. We would always cheat together and swap cards so that one of us could win,” Quintanar said.

The date June 13 is also the birthday of his father, Marco Quintanar.

“[My father] is a blue-collar man, hardworking and provides for his family,” Quintanar said. “He’s always there for us. My favorite memory was when he would coach me for baseball.”

Jaylen Jasper - Men’s Volleyball

Jasper said he technically has a biological child in the world.

“Right after I turned 21, I was asked for my sperm by a couple that could not have a child on their own,” Jasper said. “In a direct donation to one couple, I donated, and I wanted to get something to symbolize that.”

In order to represent the life he helped create, Jasper said he chose a manta ray.

“Ever since [the donation] manta rays are my favorite animal, and they give birth to one or two pups at a time,” Jasper said. “This was one of the closest things I could get to sperm cell, without it being obvious.”

For Jasper, he said the tattoo is also a reminder that his donation may have long-lasting effects.

“I did put it in the contract that the child is allowed to reach out to me,” Jasper said. “It is a reminder that one day I will meet a little me. I am excited for it, also kind of scared, but I think it will be an amazing day. I can feel it already.”

The couple paid Jasper a sum of \$25,000, Jasper said.

“Tattoos were the first thing I got. I bought myself a nice designer wallet, I got my dogs, I made some updates to my car,” Jasper said. “I completely changed my wardrobe — which was an identity shift. It really gave me a chance of financial responsibility.”

Alongside the manta ray, Jasper wears a handful of tattoos from different aspects of his life.

“I got a palm tree once I realized California is where I want to be. I got Stanford tattooed after I graduated. I got a tattoo of Maryland where I am from, I got a tattoo of Waves for when we won the MSPF tournament and I got my dog tags,” Jasper said.

Jasper said he also is not done yet.

“My younger brother got a heart transplant right after he started high school, and he had a huge scar down his chest. I was thinking about getting white ink, something that looks similar because that is something he is self-conscious about,” Jasper said as he pointed to his chest.

Isabel Montoya - Women’s Basketball

Saint Jude is known for his association with lost causes. The ruler of Edessa was given a painful disease, according to Catholic News Agency. The disease was seen to be incurable until Saint Jude put his hands on Abgar, instantly healing him.

“You can get a painting and have it on your house somewhere, but being able to put something permanent on your body is showing beauty.”

Travis Reynolds
Junior

Montoya said she got a tattoo of Saint Jude for her father during her first year of college.

“My dad had a rough childhood. He had abandonment



Photos provided by sources

Six Pepperdine athletes from five different sports show off their tattoos. These tattoos represent everything from words to live by to family members who have died.

TOP LEFT: Matt Quintanar; TOP MIDDLE: Hunter Jansen; TOP RIGHT: Jaylen Jasper
BOTTOM LEFT: Taylor Rath; BOTTOM MIDDLE: Travis Reynolds; BOTTOM RIGHT: Isabel Montoya

stuff going on,” Montoya said. “He thought [his name] was a covenant for him that he is a lost cause, and I wear him on my skin everyday, so when people ask about him, he gets recognized that he is not abandoned.”

Montoya said her father Jude is especially meaningful to her.

“My dad didn’t know much about basketball, but when I told him I wanted to play, he started studying it 24/7,” Montoya said. “He probably knows more than me because he studies it so much. To me, that means the world.”

Beyond paying homage to her father, Montoya said she has tattoos for all those she knows who have died.

“I have three tattoos for multiple friends that have passed away. It is a cool deal when people ask about them; it is like they are still alive. I get to tell their story,” Montoya said.

Montoya said the deaths she has experienced in life have also led her to get a tattoo for herself.

“I have a Día De Los Muertos skull on the back of my leg that is mostly for me,” Montoya said. “I have been around death so much; the skull celebrates my establishment and the deaths, so they are not negative.”

Travis Reynolds - Water Polo

The Polynesian-American actor Dwayne “the Rock” Johnson and the importance of family inspired Reynolds to get his tattoo.

“Ever since I saw the Rock when I was little, I thought [a tribal tattoo] was the sickest thing ever,” Reynolds said. “I love the Polynesian culture and how rooted in family it is. That is close to my own beliefs. I love my family — family is a big part of my life.”

Reynolds said he highlighted three of those symbols on his tribal tattoo.

“I have the Celtic Trinity be-

cause faith is very important to me,” Reynolds said. “I have the Helm of Awe, which is the symbol of warrior and protection because I have always been the defender of my family and my friends. I recently got Oden’s Raven, which is the watcher of everything.”

Reynolds said the most important aspect of his tattoo is family.

“The thing about my family which I love is that, before we are there for us, we are there for other people. Even if we are going through things, we would rather help someone else than help ourselves,” Reynolds said. “That is what I have always loved about how my parents raised me. Having that symbol of my family and that little story of me on myself is awesome.”

Taylor Rath - Women’s Soccer

Kaizen is a Japanese concept for self-improvement that focuses on the ideas of avoiding complacency and looking for ways to improve your situation, according to The True Japan.

For Rath, she said this is an idea she tries to live by.

“Every time I look down at my arm, it’s a reminder that it’s just me versus me,” Rath said. “I’m just incrementally getting one percent better than yesterday, and that is what is going to lead to excellence.”

Rath said self-improvement proved to be vital as she came back from a discoid radial lateral meniscus tear.

“Following physical therapy, doctors and everything that I am asked is the reason I came back at the time I did,” Rath said. “If I focus on myself, if I didn’t stay in the gym every day, I would not be cleared right now. I know that hard work always pays off.”

On her left arm, Rath showcases the words “perspective” and “gratitude” in black ink.

“Being told I have an interesting perspective — and I

have a great perspective — it was like, this is a sign,” Rath said.

Rath said that part of her perspective on life is gratitude.

“I have gratitude on my arm because it is not only a reminder to be thankful but also a reminder to practice being thankful and reminding other people how grateful we are to even have the opportunity to go to Pepperdine,” Rath said.

Hunter Jansen - Baseball

After his uncle died in 2020, Jansen said he got a tattoo of his uncle’s initials and the cross on his bicep. He also got a tattoo of the day his uncle died on his wrist.

Jansen’s uncle Justin played a major role in his life, Jansen said.

“He was the best. He walked in the room, and the room lit up with excitement and laughter. He was a funny guy and a great guy, and he was like a second dad,” Jansen said.

Jansen said most of his favorite memories were whenever his uncle would come watch him play.

“He would always support me around baseball games. He would have loved to see me at Pepperdine,” Jansen said. “It’s a three and a half, four-hour drive, but he would have made it to every single game, probably all of our away games too.”

In addition to watching him play, Jansen said his uncle would have also loved to see the other tattoos he has.

“I have a joker that is a wild card and supposed to bring good luck, I have an ace of spades that is supposed to bring ambition, power and help me push through things, and a king of hearts, which is supposed to bring good vibes,” Jansen said. “[Justin] would have loved to see them on me.”

alexander.clarke@pepperdine.



SPORTS

Pepp Baseball swings for improvement

Tony Gleason
Sports Assistant

Pepperdine Baseball's season begins Feb. 17, with a three-game series against Boston College at Eddy D. Field Stadium in Malibu. Multiple members of this year's team said they are looking to use their experience and depth to build on and improve from their past couple of seasons.

After going 24-26 in the 2022 season, players and coaches have said the Waves expect to be more competitive in 2023 due to the growth of returning players and impact of newcomers.

"The staff's really well-rounded; our lineup's got a lot of good returning bats and incoming freshmen," senior pitcher Shane Telfer said. "I'm just excited to see what we do when we put it all together when the season starts."

Schedule

In 2022, Pepperdine started off the season with a three-game sweep of Villanova. This year, Head Coach Rick Hirtensteiner said the Waves are looking to repeat their opening weekend success — mainly focusing on performing well to help build for the future.

"We're just trying to play well and play better than them," Hirtensteiner said. "We wanna win all three, but if you play well, even if you lose one or lose two, if you play well, it really bodes for the future."

Nine of Pepperdine's first 15 games will be played at home at Eddy D. Field. Senior catcher and infielder Ryan Johnson said he is excited to start off the year with many games at home. The team loves playing at home since it eliminates the difficulties that come with playing on the road, Johnson said.

"It's hard to have to get on a plane, and travel, and get up early, practice late at night and time zone changes," Johnson said.

After playing Boston College, Pepperdine will head to UCLA to play the Bruins. When the Waves went to UCLA last year, then-sophomore shortstop John Peck hit a go-ahead grand slam in the top of the ninth, and the Waves won 7-5.

"One that sticks out in my mind was when we beat UCLA early on," Telfer said. "John [Peck's] game-winning home run was a pretty exciting moment."



Design by Betsy Burrow



File photo by Mary Elisabeth | Abroad Correspondent

Graduate student outfielder Mike Malinchak steps up to bat in a game against the University of the Pacific on the weekend of March 25, at Eddy D. Field Stadium. Pepperdine outscored Pacific in this series 18-10.

Roster

Hirtensteiner said he has high expectations for Peck. In 2022, Peck earned All-WCC first team honors and led the team in many offensive stats, according to Pepperdine Athletics. Hirtensteiner said Peck is a super athletic shortstop that makes brilliant plays up the middle and, despite hitting in the .360's, he could have hit .400 with how hard he was hitting the ball.

Hirtensteiner said he expects three returners to play a big role in the season: Johnson, who brings power in the lineup and versatility in the field, graduate infielder Greg Mehlhaff, who will be hitting in the middle of the lineup and senior outfielder Grant Schoen, who despite battling injuries in his first three years, was performing well in the fall.

Hirtensteiner said two newcomers he expects to see significant playing time are two transfer students — Lincoln Orellana, junior outfielder and first baseman, who transferred from American River College.

"In the fall [Orellana] hit extremely well with some power and was pretty versatile on defense," Hirtensteiner said. "He has the chance to be a mainstay in the lineup and hit in the middle of the lineup."

The other transfer student is sophomore pitcher Tommy Scavone.

Scavone transferred from Cal State East Bay and was recovering from injury during the fall but since being healthy has looked great on the mound, Hirtensteiner said.

"He's healthy now, and he's been pitching in our intersquad games," Hirtensteiner said. "He's been pitching really well and has the potential to be a weekend starter."

Johnson said another pitcher expected to play significant role this season is Telfer.

"Shane Telfer will be throwing on Friday's for us most likely," Johnson said. "Last year he didn't start out pitching a lot, but then, he ended up starting at the end of the year and did really well, and he'll do good for us again this year."

In 36.2 innings last season, Telfer led the Waves pitching staff with a 2.45. He additionally earned WCC pitcher of the week for the week of May 16, after he pitched seven shutout innings with ten strikeouts against LMU.

Looking Ahead

After their first 15 games, Pepperdine will begin playing teams from the West Coast Conference. Johnson said out of all teams in the WCC, he's especially eager to play the University of San Diego because of the rivalry between these two teams.

"We always just want to beat them,"

Johnson said. "You talk about LMU being right down PCH; we have a little rivalry with them, but it's different for USD. It's a different type of game, and it makes it more fun."

With how competitive the West Coast Conference can be, Hirtensteiner said any team can be in contention for the WCC title.

"In any given year in the WCC, any team can rise up and challenge," Hirtensteiner said.

Johnson said one of the Waves' biggest strengths is the depth the team has in the lineup and on the mound, which is important, as it keeps the starters on their toes to perform to the best of their ability.

"We're really deep in the lineup," Johnson said. "We have three guys coming off the bench that can play. We have a bunch of pitchers that can pitch for us if somebody goes down. If nobody's getting hurt, it keeps our starters better because they know they have that guy behind him pushing him."

Hirtensteiner said the team's pitching depth improvement will be crucial to their success, as having elite arms in the rotation can help carry a team.

"It really helps when you have elite arms in your starting rotation," Hirtensteiner said. "If you have a few elite arms, it can carry you a long way. I think our arms are closer to being that. We just have to wait to see how they perform."

With the season approaching, Telfer said, and with how unpredictable baseball can be, the Waves need to keep fighting until the very end, no matter the given situation.

"I think, mainly, we need to never count ourselves out," Telfer said. "Baseball is crazy; college baseball, every game is a dogfight. Anything can happen until the end. Any series is ours to win, any game, no matter what the situation is. We can take control, and we can win."

As for Johnson, he said his approach to the new season is to take it slowly and focus on each day without worrying about the end product too soon.

"Don't look to the end too soon," Johnson said. "Focus on the pitch by pitch, day by day. If you put it all together, by the end, it will be a good year."

With the combination of three fifth years, along with multiple veterans and the nine freshmen, Hirtensteiner said this team is a good mix of different ages.

"It's a good mix of old and young," Hirtensteiner said. "Hopefully, those older guys can bring these young guys along, and develop and become a really good team."

anthony.gleason@pepperdine.edu



CAMPING CONTROVERSY



Malibu City Council fights against low-impact camping

Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

The California Coastal Commission and the L.A. County Board of Supervisors remain invested in the proposition of low-impact camping in the Santa Monica Mountains — a move the Malibu City Council is not in favor of, Mayor Bruce Silverstein said.

The debate has been ongoing since 2019, when the Council submitted its first letter of opposition to the County. The Council wrote three letters in total, which stated letting individuals camp in a high-fire zone was dangerous, according to the letters.

“There’s plenty of other areas in California that aren’t very high fire hazard severity zones where people can go camp,” Silverstein said.

Defining Low-Impact Camping

Low-impact camping is land designed for carry-in, car-

ry-out camping — allowing campers to walk from ADA compliant drop-off areas, trails or associated parking lots, according to a Nov. 15 Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program Amendment.

Low-impact camping does not damage or change the land, and everything the camper brings in, they need to bring back out, according to Essortment.

“This low-impact camping truly is a hike-in, hike-out, bring everything you need in your backpack and leave no trace,” Director of Regional Planning Amy Bodek said in an April 19 L.A. County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Low-impact campgrounds do not have fire-protective measures, such as rules about no camping on fire red flag days — days with extreme fire risks — campsite inspections and no cooking facilities, the Council wrote in a Jan. 20 letter to the CCC.

The Mountains Recreation

Malibu City Council drops ban on encampments

Liza Esquibias
Multimedia Producer

In mid-January, Malibu lifted its emergency order allowing the city to immediately clear any unhoused encampments in fire-prone areas, which began in September, Public Safety Liaison Luis Flores said.

and Conservation Authority previously looked at adding low-impact campgrounds to Malibu Bluffs Park and Ramirez Canyon Park, according to past reporting in The Malibu Times.

“Right now, you’re just allowed to hike there; you’re not allowed to camp there,” Silverstein said. “So it [low-impact campgrounds] will be an increase in what you’re allowed to do.”

See **A5**

Mayor Bruce Silverstein was the only person to vote against this motion, which he said targeted two related issues Malibu has been facing for years — unhoused encampments and camping.

Official fire season ended in January, but Silverstein said because Malibu is one of the few areas in California that is considered a very high fire hazard severity zone, wildfire risk never truly disappears.

“In my view, until Mother Nature does something different or the state does something different in the Santa Monica

Mountains for wildfires, we are in a state of emergency,” Silverstein said.

The Unhoused Population and Wildfires

The emergency order Malibu had in place allowed city officials to remove unhoused encampments from public property if the encampments posed a wildfire risk during the usual fire season, which typically runs from September through January, Flores said.

In recent years, Flores said the city’s efforts to reduce the number of unhoused individuals in Malibu have naturally trickled into efforts to reduce fire risk, and vice versa.

“There’s a direct correlation with homeless count numbers and fires, so we try to keep the number as low as possible,” Flores said.

See **A5**

Design by **Haley Hoidal**
Creative Director



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Good News: Sweet reminders to show loved ones you care



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Marley Penagos
DEI Editor

For years I was convinced Valentine’s Day was nothing more than a capitalistic Hallmark ploy to sell crappy chocolates and cards with Cupid on them.

I was a certified Valentine’s Day hater, and I was unapologetic about it. There was no way I was going to take part in a holiday based on spending money and couples who participate in way too much PDA for my taste.



While I try my very best to show my friends love on a day-to-day basis, it is so easy to get lost in the frenzy of life.

Marley Penagos
DEI Editor

Until my first Valentine’s Day with a significant other — even though that is not what it is all about — I realized the day of love doesn’t have to be all about plastic-tasting conversation hearts and a chubby flying baby with a bow and arrow.

Even though my significant other knew about my distaste for the holiday, he left extra tubes of my favorite chapstick in my car with a sweet handwritten note to surprise me. This small gesture made me feel

so loved it took me aback. It could not have cost him more than five dollars to put the gift together, and yet it made me feel known, seen and valued.

The kind gesture prompted me to look back on all the Valentine’s days in my life. I remembered the excitement of showing up to school in my best pink and red outfit. My backpack would be stuffed full of puppy or dinosaur valentines and chocolates — enough for every single person in my class. I remembered how my parents and grandparents made me and my siblings valentines gifts every year.

For every Valentine’s Day after that, I realized that random day in the middle of the shortest month was another opportunity to show the people dearest to me how much I love them.

While I try my very best to show my friends love on a day-to-day basis, it is so easy to get lost in the frenzy of life. Valentine’s Day is a sweet reminder to slow down and bask in the love, throw a few extra compliments as you walk around campus and switch your usual black T-shirt for a bright pink one. It is an extra motivator to be smiley and giggly and full of love.

Yes, the candy hearts suck. The sappy love songs can be an ear-full. And yes, the couples can be annoying — guilty. But whether your love is familial, platonic, romantic or even just a love for life, make the most of a day dedicated to love.

marley.penagos@pepperdine.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 18

Men’s Basketball vs. Gonzaga

Watch the Men’s Basketball team play against Gonzaga University at Firestone Fieldhouse at 4 p.m.

Feb. 23 and 25

Opera

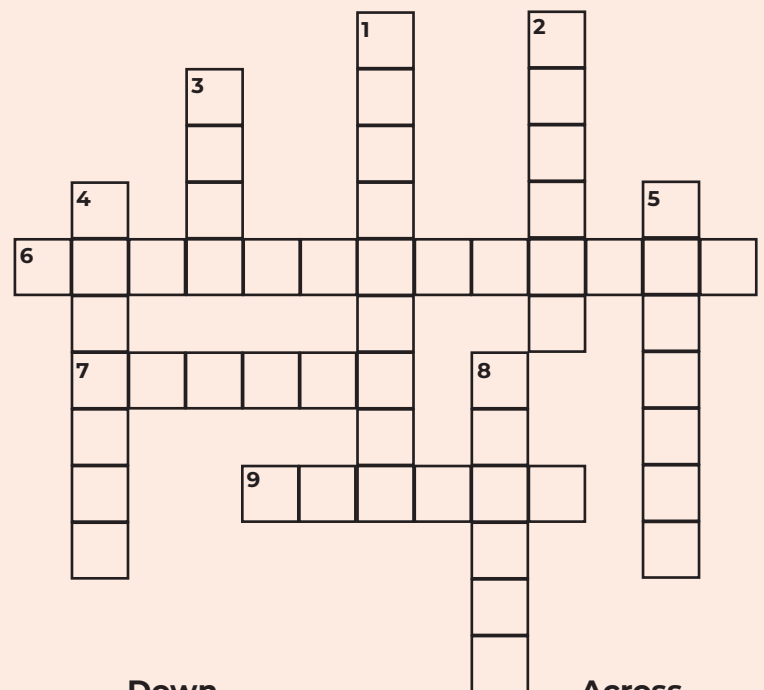
The Pepperdine Opera will perform “H.M.S. Pinafore” in the Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts at 7:30 p.m.

March 8

Contempo

Listen to “Contempo: Pepperdine’s Annual Musical Theatre Review” at 7:30 p.m., at the Light House where students will perform different musical theatre songs.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Down

1. Theme of DIF
2. Subject of Rant or Rave
3. Staff ed theme
4. Meaningful ink artworks
5. Low-impact _____
8. _____ 200

Across

6. Holiday of love
7. New year, New _____
9. 75th season kick off

You Had One [Parking] Job

Highlighting bad parking on Pepperdine’s campus



Seaver Drive

Samantha Torre | News Editor



Smothers Parking Lot

Joe Allgood | Podcast Producer

SGA MEETING recap | 02.15

- 1 SGA passed a motion to increase awareness of mental health resources.
- 2 A motion passed to find ways to increase attendance at games.
- 3 SGA discussed how to raise awareness about the Career Center.



Lydia duPerier | Staff Photographer

Students enter Santa Monica College's Malibu campus Feb. 15. The location offers classes ranging from science to Barre Fusion, said Scott Silverman, dean of Non-credit and Summer Programs at SMC.

Malibu welcomes Santa Monica College

Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

There is a new place for learning in Malibu — Santa Monica College. SMC opened its doors at its new satellite campus for students Feb. 13, with over 450 students enrolled and 150 students arriving to class on the first day of school, said Scott Silverman, dean of Noncredit and Summer Programs at SMC.

SMC is located on Civic Center Way, right next to the Malibu Library. Silver-

man said the project has been over 10 years in the making, and students said they are excited to take classes in Malibu. The main campus is in Santa Monica.

“It’s great; it’s awesome,” first-year Misha Frolov said. “Considering my girlfriend goes to Pepperdine, I get to actually go to school next to her and in Malibu, so it’s really amazing.”

SMC’s Classes

The satellite campus is holding 25 classes, including Yoga, Film Appre-

ciation, English, Statistics and Public Speaking, Silverman said. There are four program options for students to choose from — emeritus, noncredit, credit or community education.

The emeritus program serves older adults who are interested in “lifelong learning” and is completely free, without credit, Silverman said.

Noncredit programs include an early childhood education certificate, Silverman said, which is a free certificate program at SMC. Students will complete the certificate at the Malibu campus.

Credit programs include the general classes, such as science and exercise classes, Silverman said. Any student is welcome to join these classes for credit, including Pepperdine students. They can be used toward an Associate’s degree or to transfer, according to the SMC website.

“We’d love to have students from Pepperdine enroll in classes here,” Silverman said. “If you see classes you like, check it out. It’s definitely a great opportunity.”

Lastly, SMC offers community education classes — including Barre Fusion class and a course on female architects. These classes are open for the public, Silverman said. They are low-cost, and include seminars and workshops, according to the SMC website.

“We really have all four types, depending on what students want to do,” Silverman said. “They can pursue any one of those four types or programs or potentially all of them.”

Students’ and Faculty’s Reactions

Professor Carol Davis said she is teaching English at SMC and has heard from her students there is excitement in the air. She said the location for school is hard to beat.

“It’s really gorgeous,” Davis said.

Frolov said he also loves the location, but hopes to see Malibu adapt into more of a “college town” because Pepperdine and SMC are in the same area.

“I would definitely love to see this area change into something more of a town for younger kids instead of just a beach and just a bunch of houses,” Silverman said.

Namely, Frolov said he wants to see restaurants and bars stay open later to accommodate students after their classes are over.

Looking Forward

Silverman said he is happy with the enrollment numbers for the spring semester, but would like to see them grow in the coming years.

“The first semester is always a new experience and a new experiment,” Silverman said. “But we have really good numbers.”

There are still hours during the week not filled by classes, Silverman said, so he hopes to add more classes and students by next year.

“Maybe by spring of next year, I’d love to have even double the number of classes and to have all of them filled,” Silverman said.



Lydia duPerier | Staff Photographer

Santa Monica College’s Malibu location stands on Civic Center Way near the Malibu Country Mart. The location opened its doors to students Feb. 13.

abby.wilt@pepperdine.edu



Ali Levens | Senior Climate Change Reporter

A drought emergency banner hangs on a fence post at the intersection of Lost Hills Road and Malibu Canyon Road in Calabasas, Calif., on Feb. 4. After the State Water Resources Control Board allocated 5% to the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, the LVMWD enacted a restriction that restricted their residents to water one day a week.

Las Virgenes area handles water restrictions amid drought

Ali Levens
Senior Climate
Change Reporter

With native groundwater long gone due to extreme droughts in the past decade, the Las Virgenes area — including Pepperdine — must import 100% of its drinking water, according to the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's (LVMWD) website.

Importing water — and deciding who gets how much — involves the legal coordination of water districts and state governments to ensure this resource does not run dry.

“That’s the problem I see with water is that people view it as a property right, something that they’re entitled to,” said Shelley Saxer, Caruso School of Law Environmental Law professor.

People, organizations or governments can hold a form of property rights for water, known as senior water rights or prior appropriation, Saxer said. Prior appropriation for water recognizes the first entity to use a water source has precedence in its usage.

Prior appropriation grants legal permission to California

and its water districts to implement water rationing laws and restrictions while it is in a drought state of emergency, Saxer said. For the ongoing drought state of emergency, Government Code section 11346.1 and Water Code section 1058.5 give California and its water board this authority, according to California Water Boards.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California collects and rations water to its 26 member agencies and 19 million residents, said Demetri Polyzos, resource planning team manager at Metropolitan.

Polyzos said the water district imports about half of its water from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Basin, with the other half supplied via groundwater or recycled water at the other agencies.

For the second-consecutive year, the State Water Resources Control Board announced water districts would receive an allocation of 5% from the State Water Project, Polyzos said. This led Metropolitan to enact water restrictions on districts with smaller populations that receive most of their water from the State Water Project,

which includes Pepperdine’s water supplier, the LVMWD.

“It’s [water allocation] virtually nothing,” said Mike McNutt, LVMWD public affairs and communications manager.



That’s the problem I see with water is that people view it as a property right, something they’re entitled to.

Shelley Saxer
Caruso School of Law
Environmental Law
Professor

Polyzos said the Board’s low allocation “puts a strain” on the available water held in storage. Consequently, there is not enough water coming from the Board to satisfy Metropolitan’s water needs through allocation alone.

“That wasn’t enough,” Polyzos said. “That’s when we had to start essentially restricting.”

The restrictions for the LVMWD came in the form of limiting outdoor water usage by volume or by frequency starting in June 2022, McNutt said. LVMWD chose to limit outdoor watering to one day a week.

McNutt said the district chose the frequency approach because the volumetric restriction would require residents to reduce their water use by 73% — something McNutt said would “never” happen — and because frequency restrictions are “easier” to enforce.

Metropolitan requires the LVMWD to report its compliance monthly with the approved district-wide water reduction plan, McNutt said. If the LVMWD does not stay at or below the agreed upon water supply, Metropolitan will fine the water agency, which can be “quite substantial.”

In terms of outdoor watering at Pepperdine, the LVMWD and Pepperdine have a partnership with sending and receiving water. McNutt said Pepperdine sends its sewage to LVMWD’s Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, where it is treated and then sent back as “purple pipe water.” The University then uses this reclaimed water to keep Alumni Park green.

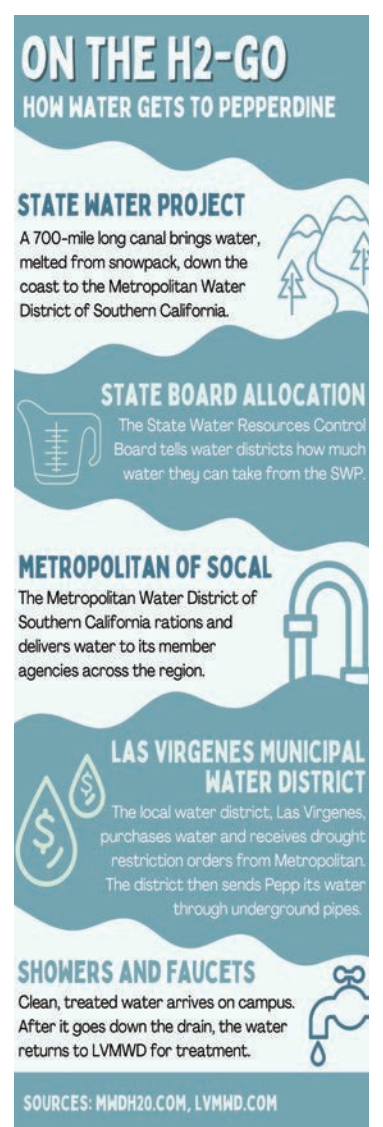
The Tapia Water Reclamation Facility on Malibu Canyon Road turns sewage into reclaimed water, which Pepperdine uses to water Alumni Park. Of all the water delivered by LVMWD, the facility has recycled about 20% of it for irrigation, according to LVMWD.

To stave off further restrictions, Polyzos said Metropolitan prepares four different scenarios of what could potentially happen to the water supply and demand — whether a surplus or drought — as part of a 25-year outlook.

“A lot of what changes among those scenarios is different assumptions on what the climate is doing, because that will have a big impact on our water supply,” Polyzos said. “We’re already seeing that today. So, we are planning for climate change impacts, and so that’s baked into our long-term planning.”

Polyzos and McNutt said there has been a shift in the mindset of Californians’ relationship with conserving water. Polyzos said the data backs that up, because even with a 5 million resident increase in Southern California in the 1980s, water usage has been stable, which shows the individual Californian uses less water now than they did three decades ago.

“There is a major sense of urgency associated with find-



Ali Levens |
Senior Climate Change Reporter

ing additional water supplies to get us through, but [this] arguably, is the new normal,” McNutt said.

McNutt said the 15% allocation is the minimum an agency should receive to cover health and safety needs, but the Board increased the allocation to 30% after record rainfall filled reservoirs across the state.

“Our supplies are increasing this year, but we can’t let off the gas with respect to continuing to find ways to save water, to use it wisely,” Polyzos said. “What we do in these wetter periods makes a huge difference in how we can manage the drier period, so we always need to keep conserving.”



Ali Levens | Senior Climate Change Reporter

The Tapia Water Reclamation Facility turns sewage into reclaimed water, which Pepperdine uses to water Alumni Park. Reclaimed water is not safe to drink but is safe enough for outdoor watering.

From A1: Emergency order drop impacts wildfire risk and unhoused individuals

Because unhoused individuals need to keep warm during the winter months, it is common for them to start fires for heat — which Flores said can erupt into something much larger. Another cause of unintended wildfires is smoking in fire-prone areas.

Encampments in particular pose a fire risk because they contain a lot of flammable material, Flores said. Tents, portable cooking supplies and bikes are a few examples of materials that are more likely to catch and spread fire.

Flores said in 2021, there were 157 unhoused individuals in Malibu — down from 239 in 2020 — and unhoused encampments caused 23 fires. In 2022, there were 81 unhoused individuals and only four fires.

In addition to removing encampments from fire-prone areas, Flores said city officials ensure members of the unhoused population in the Santa Monica Mountains understand the risks of open flames and other hazardous behaviors so they can protect themselves year-round.

“We have ongoing conversations with these individuals liv-

ing in these brushes and these canyons and those hillside areas,” Flores said. “We make sure that they’re educated.”

The Annual Homeless Count Process

The 2023 Homeless Count occurred Jan. 25 — at the end of fire season. This was just weeks after the city dropped the emergency order. That same week, the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors also cleared a large encampment at Surfrider Beach and a fire-prone area in Malibu Creek, all resulting in fewer unhoused individuals.

This count was the eighth time the City of Malibu has participated, with Flores and Public Safety Director Susan Dueñas as the site coordinators.

The Los Angeles Homeless Safety Authority sponsors this count throughout the greater Los Angeles area and then puts the results through a month-long analysis before releasing official numbers during the summer, Flores said.

Members of various law enforcement offices, The People

Concern, the Homelessness Task Force, the Public Safety Commission and 23 volunteers from the general public conducted the count, Flores said. After meeting at Malibu City Hall, Flores said the LAHSA provides everyone with an app to tally people and track their observations from their phones.

“They’re tracking individuals, families, tents, individuals living in their vehicles, RVs,” Flores said. “Basically every element of people experiencing homelessness.”

The app shows maps of the census tracts in the city, and Flores said he assigns those participating in the count to drive around different areas. At the end of the day, Flores submits the data LAHSA for processing.

Reduce the Unhoused Population and Wildfires

Silverstein said part of his campaign when he ran for City Council in 2020 was to reduce the number of unhoused individuals in an effort to protect all residents of Malibu. He said two measures aimed at

achieving this goal are indirect but impactful — an ordinance reducing RV parking and the new low-impact camping ordinance.

“Malibu can’t fix homelessness — I don’t think anyone in the country without the whole country working on it together can fix homelessness.”

Bruce Silverstein
Malibu Mayor

“Malibu can’t fix homelessness — I don’t think anyone in the country without the whole country working on it together can fix homelessness,” Silverstein said. “But we want to protect the residents from the

problems that arise from people living unhoused throughout the city and public.”

One of those problems is wildfires, Silverstein said, which is why he is concerned about the dropping of the emergency order. Legally, he said an emergency order should remain in place until the threat is no longer present, so the city should have kept the order to protect both unhoused individuals and other residents around the city from a year-round fire threat.

“Fire danger is omnipresent 24/7, 365 days a year,” Silverstein said.

The best way to reduce the unhoused population and wildfires is to ensure everyone who lives in Malibu is aware of the resources the city offers — such as shelters, free clothing and mental health services, Flores said.

“We’ve been making great strides on that front,” Flores said. “We’re very proactive and service-oriented when addressing homelessness, which has been having a lasting impact.”

liza.esquibias@pepperdine.edu

From A1: L.A. County proposes new low-impact campground

Campgrounds in Malibu, including Malibu Creek State Park and Topanga Canyon Campground, are not low-impact campgrounds — they are designed for large tents and RVs, Bodek said, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation supervise them.

Concerns with Low-Impact Campgrounds

Cal Fire designated Malibu as a “very high fire hazard severity zone,” according to Cal Fire, based on factors including fire history, natural vegetation, blowing embers, terrain and fire weather.

“That means that it can easily go up in smoke anytime,” Silverstein said. “And it’s uncontrollable when that happens, as we all know.”

The CCC’s plan for low-impact camping would allow campers to camp on red flag days, not require inspections and allow “fireproof” cooking stations.

The plan also does not follow L.A. County’s guidelines on environmental protections — namely, allowing low-impact campers to camp within 50 feet of a creek or stream rather than the 100 feet the County suggests.

“We think it is irresponsible and short sighted for the Board of Supervisors and the Coastal Commission to be allowing increased usage of that area, especially camping,” Silverstein said.

History of the Issue

Low-impact camping has been a back-and-forth issue since 2014 between the CCC and the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, according to the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program Amendment.

The Council wrote their first letter May 22, 2019, and stated low-impact camping was more dangerous than regular camping. The Council called on the Board of Supervisors and the CCC to change their language regarding regulations for low-impact camping.

The Council’s second letter April 15, called on the Board of Supervisors to reject the CCC’s most recent modifications to the Local Coastal Plan — modifications that triggered fire risk, according to the letter.

“I have a very hard time picturing anyone on this Council being in favor of what the County wants to do,” previous Councilmember Karen Farer said in an April 11 Malibu City Council meeting in response to the CCC’s modifications.

Despite the Council’s letters, the CCC approved the County’s modifications July 7, and the County accepted the CCC’s modifications Nov. 15 — reaching an agreement, according to the Feb. 8 CCC Staff Report.

The Council then wrote their third letter Jan. 20, and stated the approved modifications to the Local Coastal Plan

will greatly increase wildfires in Malibu due to the lack of fire protection, namely allowance of camping on red flag days and no supervision.

“They don’t care what we have to say; they’re going to approve it,” Silverstein said.

CCC’s Executive Director John Ainsworth reported Feb. 8, the CCC determined the County’s actions to approve the modifications were legally adequate.

While the Feb. 8 meeting report was simply a report, not a decision, the Council wrote in their Jan. 20 letter they still remain concerned about low-impact camping and said they will work with the Board and the CCC to keep Malibu’s residents and visitors safe.

“The City remains willing to work with the Commission and the County to resolve these concerns and reach a mutually acceptable solution,” the Council wrote in their Jan. 20 letter.

abby.wilt@pepperdine.edu



Art by Haley Hoidal
Creative Director

More than just a few words: Pepperdine community remembers Ted McAllister

Samantha Torre
News Editor

Ted McAllister, the Edward L. Gaylord Chair and professor of Public Policy, died in late January, according to the School of Public Policy's Jan. 27 news release.

Ted began teaching at SPP in its second year, 1998, wrote Pete Peterson, dean of SPP in a Feb. 8 email to the Graphic.

Ted taught Roots of American Order, Great Books and Great Ideas and several electives, and he created a "uniquely" Pepperdine curriculum, Peterson wrote.

Ron Cox, professor of Religion and interim dean of International Programs, said he has known Ted and his family since 2005 — their children were in a church youth group together, they served on the University Faculty Council together, led a reading group together and more.

"I don't think I could summarize Ted in a sentence or a couple of words," Cox said. "I mentioned his integrity. I mentioned his candor. I mentioned his thoughtfulness and mentioned his willingness to be contrarian if it helped to bring about clear understanding, and he was a person of great conviction."

Peterson wrote he and Ted worked together on the Why Place Matters conference series, which investigated the scale and scope of policymaking, and the Quest For Community conferences at Pepperdine, which addressed loneliness and alienation.

"Professor McAllister constantly pushed students and colleagues to consider the human dimension of public policy — to ask contextual questions about policy decisions rooted in history and human nature," Peterson wrote.

Regardless of the context, Cox said Ted made him think about the meaning of the words he used — by questioning and engaging with Cox in conversation.

“

There's really no showmanship about him. There was no putting on airs — he was exactly who he was.

Ron Cox
Professor of Religion

"If he disagreed, he wouldn't hold back from sharing that," Cox said. "At the same time, he was incredibly generous. So, he could be very straightforward in his critique and very honest in where he disagreed, but he cared deeply about me and about the people around him, and he cared deeply about Pepperdine."

Ted was also "the driving force" in creating community among the faculty at Pepperdine, Cox said.

"He relished the idea of poking and



Photo courtesy of Lena Pacifici

Ted McAllister, the Edward L. Gaylord Chair and professor of Public Policy, stands outside Pepperdine's School of Public Policy. McAllister died in late January, according to SPP's Jan. 27 news release, and left an impact on many people.

prodding those people for greater authenticity, more than you would ever want to have to be in their role," Cox said.

Everything Ted did was to strengthen those around him, Cox said.

"If I were introducing somebody to Ted, and I have the opportunity to set them up before we met Ted, I would encourage them to strap up and hold on tight and to be themselves but allow for Ted to be himself," Cox said.

Cox said when engaging candidly with Ted, one could expect Ted's honesty and integrity in return.

"There's really no showmanship about him," Cox said. "There was no putting on airs — he was exactly who he was."

Even if someone did not agree with Ted, his desire to help reach that clarity of thought and challenge others showed through, Cox said.

"He didn't want people to agree with him," Cox said. "In fact, he really appreciated when people didn't agree with him. What he wanted was honest dialogue," Cox said.

Ted created a place for people to communicate and engage with one another, Cox said.

"It's a huge loss," Cox said. "Because he helped me own what I care about and to step forward, and express it and defend it. And I'm part of a group of people who are indebted to him and who will miss him tremendously."

In hearing from SPP alumni, Peterson wrote he learned new ways Ted stayed in contact with graduates

An SPP graduate from over a decade ago — who now leads a charter school in Oakland — reached out to Peterson in January, Peterson wrote, and described his experience with Ted as a challenge "into liberation."

"Professor McAllister was constantly challenging his students to pursue truth, but it should be remembered that he challenged himself in this pursuit first and foremost," Peterson wrote.

Peterson wrote the response from those who knew Ted shows his influence will "live on for a very long time"

through both SPP and the people he knew.

"Professor McAllister's personal philosophy was to courageously challenge all ideologies in the relentless pursuit of truth," Peterson wrote. "He grounded this in a deep and mature Christian faith, which provided the spiritual and intellectual freedom necessary to challenge fashionable intellectual commitments — particularly in the fields of politics and policy."

“

Professor McAllister was constantly challenging his students to pursue truth, but it should be remembered that he challenged himself in this pursuit first and foremost.

Pete Peterson
Dean of SPP

Nate Barton, adjunct professor and Seaver ('16) and SPP ('18) alumnus, as well as former Graphic News editor, said he took at least four courses with Ted while at Pepperdine, where Ted was a large influence on his life.

Ted's style of teaching, Barton said, was to play devil's advocate to provoke introspection and deliberation about "things that matter."

"He had kind of a wrecking-ball style of pedagogy, and that often left me frustrated and unsettled and wondering what I'd gotten myself into," Barton said. "But I think I'm better for it."

Barton said the two had a "back and forth" and went out to lunch to talk about life, in addition to exchanging

emails that reached nearly 3,000 words.

"I look back on the time [he] spent on those and the amount of investment that went into those and — I teach sometimes now — I can't do that with every student," Barton said. "That's an impressive thing and a testament to his approach to pedagogy that he was willing to debate things on that level, even with a first-year grad student."

Years later, Barton said he is still "fumbling around in the brambles of his mind."

"He is a question asker, and he's someone who, if you spent enough time with him, he never really leaves your head," Barton said. "There's a little Professor McAllister in my head that's like, whenever I hear about something new, I'm like, he would say this about that."

Ted was more than just a scholar, Barton said. He was committed to his family. When he entered a room, he made a conversation deeper. and made the conversations of the rooms he entered deeper.

Barton said he saw a side of Ted that "built bridges."

"There's a certain irony in the fact that the person that I disagreed with most was arguably my best and closest mentor at Pepperdine," Barton said. "That alone is kind of a remarkable thing, and it says a lot more about him than it says about me."

A glimpse into faith at Caruso Law

Nora Moriarty-McLaughlin
Staff Writer

The Dean's Bible Study offers Caruso School of Law students a time to worship and opens a space to share faith with one another. Attendees of the two-hour Dean's Bible Study service gather in community, listen to sermons and pray.

Dean of Caruso Paul Caron hosts the Bible study at his on-campus home, where dinner is served at 6 p.m., followed by a guest speaker at 7 p.m. and small group prayer at 7:40 p.m.

Whitney Heuermann, a second-year Caruso School of Law student, said as a first-year law student, she did not miss a Bible study. Heuermann said she considered it her mid-week reset from intense study, and the time allowed her to refresh mentally and spiritually.

"My first year it [the Bible study] was such a cornerstone for me; it was a nonnegotiable time," Heuermann said.

The Dean's Bible Study occurs every Wednesday of the academic year and is open to all Pepperdine students, Caron said. With a new guest speaker each week, students can worship in community and connect with God.

History of Dean's Bible Study

The Dean's Bible Study has been a longstanding tradition at Caruso for 43 years, according to Caruso's website.

With the myriad of academic and

mental challenges of attending law school, having a faith community for sharing and support can make those challenges more manageable, Heuermann said.

Historically, deans have not hosted this Bible study. Over its 43-year existence, hosts varied from professors of law like F. LaGard Smith, the original host, to senior vice chancellors like Ron Phillips to deans like Caron and President Jim Gash, according to Pepperdine's website.

Guest speakers vary each week, and Caron said he does not require them to stick to a theme. This is one way the Bible study differs depending on the host.

"I like asking faculty, and then others, if they have something on their heart that they want to share, to share it," Caron said. "And I like that organic sort of thing."

Mostly law students attend, but students from Graziadio Business School and Pepperdine's Graduate School of Education and Psychology also come, said Ana Rodriguez, third-year law student and President of Caruso's Christian Legal Society. It is the only Bible study a graduate school hosts, Caron said. Therefore students from all of Pepperdine's graduate schools are welcome to attend, Rodriguez said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Caruso held the Bible study virtually over Zoom, Caron said. But attendance numbers sank to under 15 compared to the Bible study's current weekly attendance of around 50 people.

Rodriguez said the virtual Bible study had its benefits because speakers who were not local to Malibu could join, but said it's better to hold the faith gatherings in person.

"It's just nice being in community that way," Rodriguez said.

Benefits for Students

Law students gain several benefits from attending the Dean's Bible Study and participating actively in CLS, Rodriguez said.

Heuermann said she credits the weekly Bible study with helping her survive a grueling first year at Caruso.

"CLS and just that Christian community has been so grounding and knowing that I have people that I can deeply depend on who we connect on a deeper level," Heuermann said.

The intensity of law school can test students' Christian values, Heuermann said, but students said being a part of CLS and the Dean's Bible Study has only strengthened their faith.

"Some people, it either pushes them deeper into their faith, or sometimes it even pushes them away and makes them more cynical," Heuermann said.

While the Bible study offers a place for law students to rejoice, it also opens a space for them to mourn, Caron said.

Evan Carthen, a first-year Caruso student, died unexpectedly in September 2016. In response to this, the Dean's Bible Study invited students to mourn at their Wednesday service, Caron said. Zac Luben, director of Graduate School Ministries, spoke at this service to honor Carthen.

Carthen's friends, family, classmates and professors gathered to celebrate his life, Caron said.

Caron said the community created that night was "magic."

"There is nothing that you can say that explains that or helps in that way, but just kind of being in community," Caron said.

nora.mclaughlin@pepperdine.edu



Photo courtesy of Paul Caron

Caruso School of Law students gather at Dean of Caruso Paul Caron's home in February 2022, to listen to a guest speaker and participate in the Dean's Bible Study. Afterward, students separated into small groups to worship.

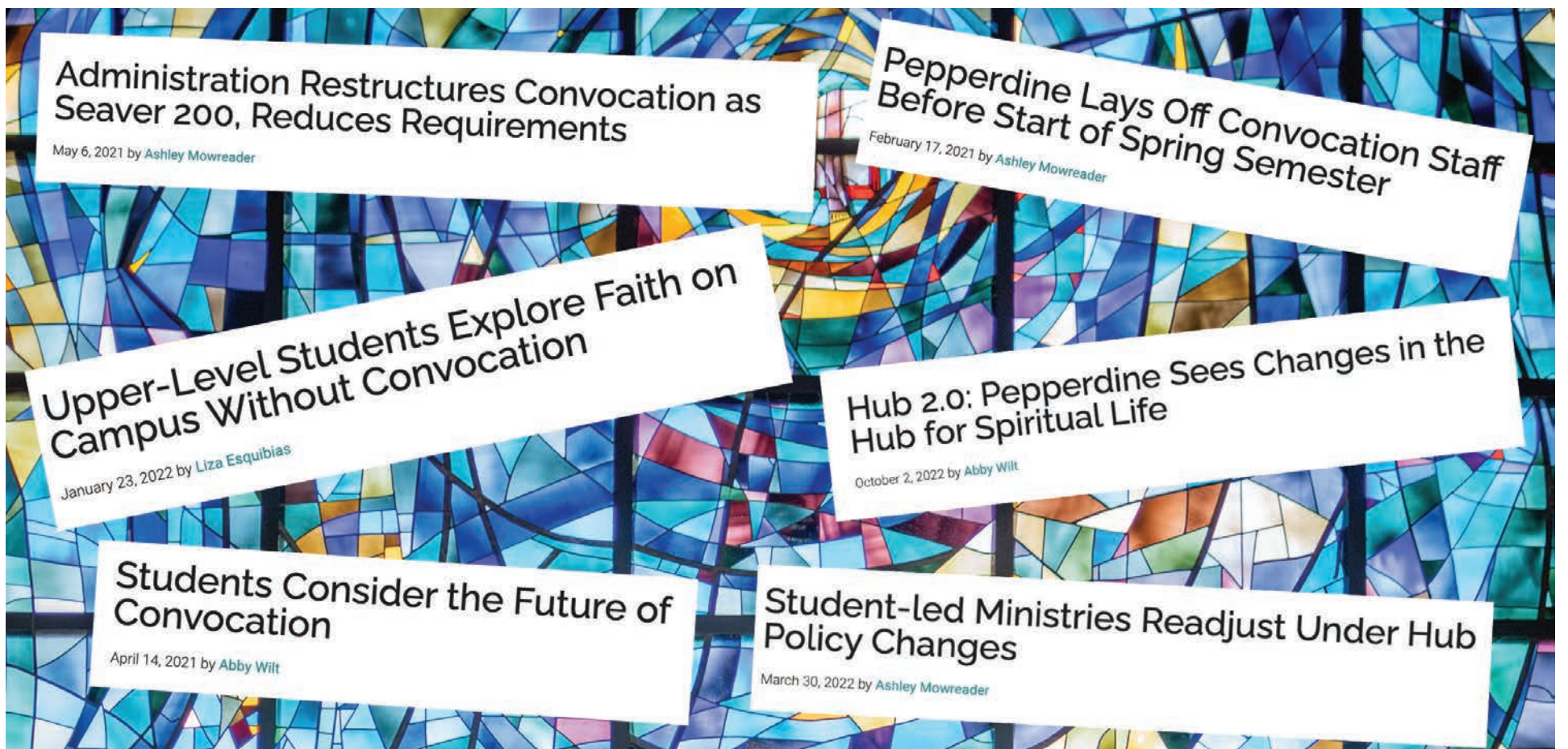


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Seaver 200 to move out of Hub and into Dean's Office

Design by **Sammie Wuensche** | Assistant Photo Editor
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Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

At the start of fall 2023 semester, Seaver 200 will move out of the Hub for Spiritual Life and into the Dean's Office, where Michael Feltner, dean of Seaver College, said he will oversee it.

Seaver 200 is moving because it is a program specifically for Seaver College, Feltner said. With it being under the Dean's Office, they can integrate curriculum from Seaver 200 into classes and vice versa. Seaver 200, which took the place of the University's Convocation credit, is an academic program and the only credit-seeking program not previously under the Dean's Office, Feltner said.

"We will keep going and endeavoring to make sure this is a program that richly contributes to the experience of every single college student," Feltner said.

Feltner said the Dean's Office will continue to partner with the Hub to bring spiritual life activities to campus — still overseeing service outreach, worship gatherings and ministry opportunities.

"The reason for the move had nothing to do with the Hub," Feltner said.

The Dean's Office will oversee Seaver 200 for first and second-year students and the Hub will focus on ministry to juniors and seniors, Feltner said.

"We have amazing partners at the Hub," Feltner said. "They will continue to have a critical role in spiritual life of all students."

History of Seaver 200

Seaver 200, previously known as Convocation, is a 10-week, faith-based program for first and second-year students at Seaver. Students are required to complete the program for their first four semesters, earning 0.5 credits each semester, according to the Pepperdine website.

From 1937 to 1957, the University required all students to attend a daily chapel. In 1957, the requirement shifted to three days per week, then in 1972 to two days per week, according to a 2017-18 Office of the Chaplain program review report.

“It is a way to just further our partnership with the Hub and the University on all spiritual life activities.”

Michael Feltner
Dean of Seaver College

In 1972, the requirement shifted to one day per week — on Wednesdays — for a campus-wide event for faculty and students to gather and worship God, according to the report.

From 1972 to 2021, the Convocation program modified and added in Club Convos and spiritual mentoring, according to the report, while still requiring 14 Convo hours — 0.5 credits at the end of the

semester — for all Seaver students.

Until 2021, Seaver 200 operated under Student Affairs, where it was called Convocation. Student Affairs housed the Office of the Chaplain, according to the report.

University Chaplain Sara Barton oversaw the Office of the Chaplain at this point, which oversaw the Convocation office — including the director of Convocation.

At the start of February 2021, the University laid off the Convocation staff, during a time when Convocation was not a requirement for students due to COVID-19.

On May 3, 2021, the University announced the Hub — a department replacing the Office of the Chaplain and the Convocation office, while shifting from working under Student Affairs to the President's Office.

Barton still oversaw all spiritual life activities, including Convocation, according to previous Graphic reporting.

Three days after, the University announced changes to Convocation — renaming the program Seaver 200 and only requiring credit for first and second-year students rather than all Seaver students, according to a May 3, 2021 email to the Pepperdine community. The program shifted from a 14-week to a 10-week program.

Barton oversaw the new Seaver 200 program for one academic year before transitioning out of the Hub and into the new Office of the Chaplain under the provost in summer 2022. Barton now works with faculty and staff rather than students, according to previous Graphic reporting.

In fall 2022, the Hub hired Cameron Gilliam, director of Student Ministries, to co-host and lead the logistics for Seaver 200. Gilliam wrote in a Sept. 16 email to the Graphic.

The program will now move to the Dean's Office and out of the Hub's oversight. Feltner said the Dean's Office hopes to hire a new director of Convocation by spring break — the last week of February — who will oversee, plan and organize the program.

Feltner also said he formed an advisory committee of students, faculty and staff from the University to inform the office and give feedback on the Seaver 200 program.

"Now what we're doing is returning it to where it was in 2013," Feltner said. "And all times prior to that."

Plans for Ministry

Feltner said the Dean's Office is not planning on huge structural changes to the program — it will still be focused on first and second-year students, while the Hub will focus on ministry to juniors and seniors.

"It is a way to just further our partnership with the Hub and the University on all spiritual life activities," Feltner said.

Parker King, associate director for Discipleship at the Hub, said in an Oct. 30 interview with the Graphic one of his main responsibilities this year is working to provide meaningful faith experiences for juniors and seniors — such as leading the Spiritual Leadership Cohort and offering community gatherings.

Reasons for the Move

One of the main reasons for the move, Feltner said, was so the Dean's Office could oversee and help Seaver 200 align with class curriculum.

Paul Begin, associate dean for Curriculum and General

Education, has worked on revising the General Education program and will now start integrating the Seaver 200 curriculum into classes, Feltner said.

"We want to share at our college to maybe use Convo to elevate the intellectual quality, the student experience," Begin said.

Begin said there is a clear distinction between Pepperdine's academics and its spiritual development and student activities side, but he said, through Seaver 200, professors and students alike can connect their spiritual and academic experiences.

"Convo is our chance to sort of bridge the gap, and bring it together and see it integrated," Begin said.

Goals for the Program

Feltner said he wants Seaver 200 to be a welcoming program that gives students a place to either grow in their faith or enter into a life with God.

"At it's best, Convocation should offer an invitation to every student at Seaver College — freshmen and sophomores — to learn more about the institution, to learn more about our Christian faith and heritage and to consider a Christian life for themselves," Feltner said.

Kindy De Long, associate dean of Seaver College, will also be helping organize and develop the Seaver 200 program and said she has similar goals for students.

"We're hoping to create a conversation where all students, regardless of what perspective they're coming from, will appreciate being part of that conversation," De Long said. "And model what it looks like to think about and to envision life at its fullest."

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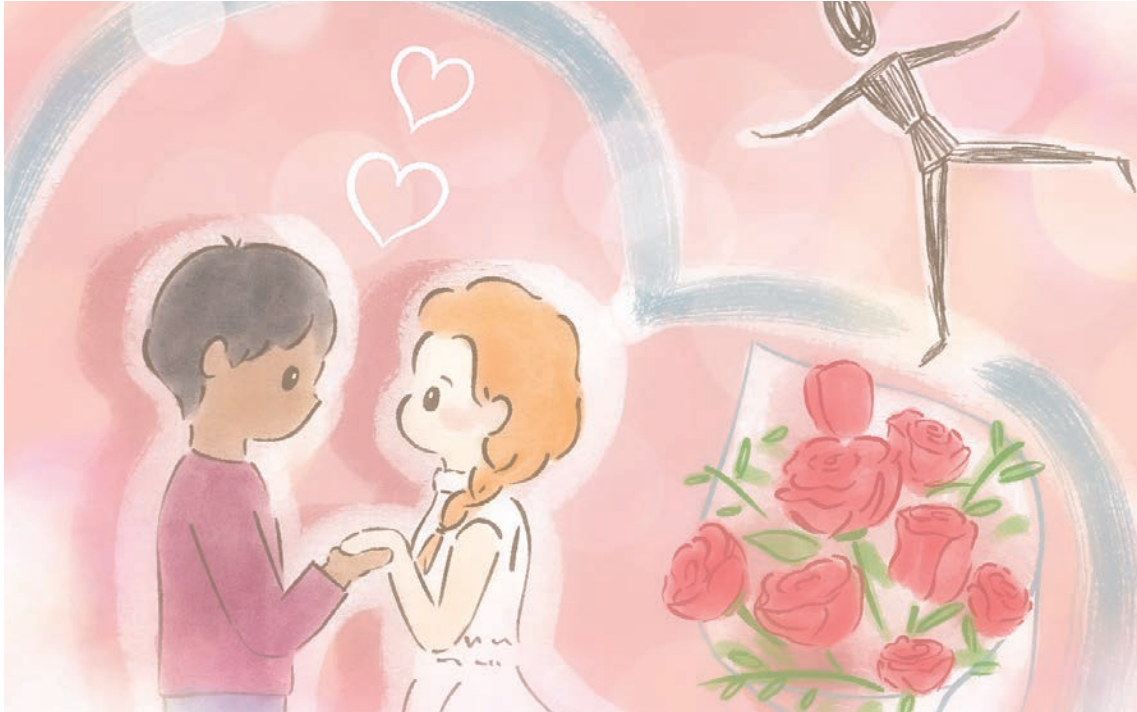


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♥ PERSPECTIVES ♥



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

It's time to spread the love

Graphic Staff

Editor's Note: PGM staff members decide on the topic of a Staff Ed together. The staff as a whole provides opinions and content included in the Staff Ed to provide thoughts and shed light on solutions for happenings at Pepperdine.

Valentine's Day doesn't have to just be a day about relationships, red hearts and chocolates. The Graphic shares what Valentine's Day means to them.

Valentine's Day can be overwhelming for some. And while the day is designed for those in romantic relationships, it can also be an opportunity to spread love to everyone around you.

With the day of love approaching, it is important to remember to celebrate love in all forms — familial, communal, platonic, romantic and self-love.

Love is the thing that guides us, the thing that moves us, so let's all take Valentine's Day to be intentional in the way we love others.

As college students, it is easy to get lost in the motions and lose sight of the importance of showing love and verbalizing our appreciation.

Take today to show appreciation for your friends and the ones in your life.

Tell the ones you love that you love them. Give them words of affirmation, give them their favorite snacks, make them a playlist, write them a letter or wrap them in a warm embrace.

Love your loved ones the way they feel the most loved — and maybe ask them for their love language while you are at it.

Not only is the Valentine's Day season about loving those around you, but also about loving yourself.

Self-love can look differ-

ent for everyone. It could be something as simple as cooking a meal for yourself or calling a loved one you haven't talked to in a while.

Self-love isn't all about self-care — instead, it is about loving who you are and embracing who you are, without shying away from showing others your authentic self.

Self-love can be a tricky concept to master, but the Graphic has a few tips and tricks to help you get started.

We, as the Graphic, aren't perfect at any of these things, but we do try to create an environment in our newsroom that embraces love. We try to lift each other up and love our community by sharing with them stories that make an impact.

peppgraphicmedia@gmail.com

The Graphic's guide to self-love

1 Go outside. As basic as it sounds, it is easy to get stuck in Payson or your dorm, completing one homework assignment after another. Instead, go outside, touch grass and recognize the beauty surrounding you.

2 Put your phone away and experience true connection. It is OK if you miss a few notifications or don't see everyone's latest Instagram posts the minute they go out. Instead, have real, in-person conversations with those around you, and truly get to know them and their hearts, rather than who they are through a screen.

3 Say no. It is OK to spend a night in, rather than always saying yes to one activity after another. Rest is important, needed and good for you — use it without feeling guilty.

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Oman's commitment to clean cities outshines major U.S. cities

Victoria La Ferla
Perspectives Assistant
Editor

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

In recent years, Oman has been gaining attention for having some of the cleanest cities in the world, according to Oman Consulate General in Australia. In comparison, major cities in the United States are struggling with environmental problems such as littering, air pollution and water pollution, according to the American Lung Association.

This raises the question of why Oman has cleaner cities than major U.S. cities and what the United States can learn from Oman's success.

Oman is often viewed as a lesser-known country, but its cities are known for their cleanliness, according to Culture Trip.

This is a stark contrast to many major cities in the United States. This disparity is not due to a lack of resources or economic power in the United States, but rather a difference in priorities and approaches to urban management.

The government has implemented various programs to educate the public on the importance of keeping the environment clean. This has led to a culture where people take pride in keeping their cities clean and are more conscious of their actions.

“

Cleanliness is not just an aesthetic. It is rooted in showing how much you care about something, just like hygiene.

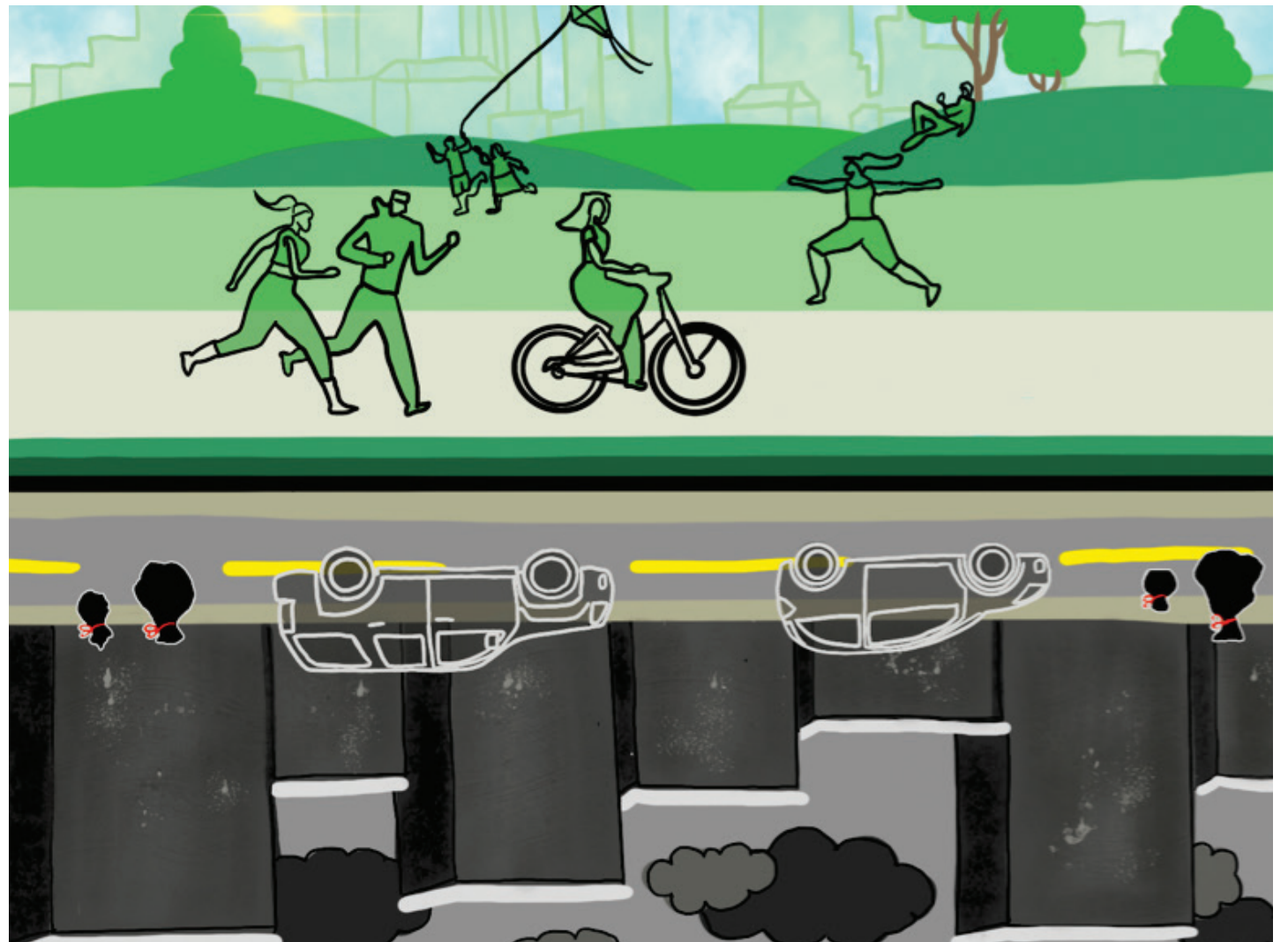
Victoria La Ferla
Perspectives Assistant Editor

In comparison, the United States has a much more relaxed approach to environmental regulations and enforcement. While there are laws in place to prevent littering, they are often not enforced, and the penalties are not severe enough to deter people from littering.

One key factor in Oman's clean cities is its strong government enforcement of regulations and laws regarding waste disposal and littering. Fines for littering are steep and strictly enforced, with violators facing significant consequences, according to Times of Oman.

This has created a culture of responsibility and accountability among the Omani people, who take pride in maintaining the cleanliness of their cities.

Some United States citizens may feel the types of fines and regulations are exaggerated, but that just shows the



Sarah Rietz | Staff Artist

distinct difference between priorities.

In Oman, a person can be fined for littering, driving around their dusty, dirty, or damaged vehicle and forgetting to repaint their building(s) every five years.

In Muscat, Oman's capital, "A fine of OMR 100 will be imposed on anyone who disposes of waste in public places," according to Times of Oman.

Also in Muscat, The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has warned motorists in the Sultanate to keep their cars clean or risk facing fines.

In a statement online ROP said, "The lack of cleanliness of a vehicle or its license plate is a serious traffic violation and is unacceptable behavior. Motorists who fail to do so could incur a fine of OMR10," according to Times of Oman.

In addition to enforcement, the country has modern waste management systems in place, which include a network of waste collection and disposal sites.

The Omani government has invested heavily in infrastructure to support proper waste management. This includes a network of well-maintained trash bins, as well as a sophisticated system for collecting and disposing of waste in an environmentally-friendly manner.

In comparison, major cities in the United States often struggle with outdated waste management systems, which can lead to waste being dumped in landfills or being burned, releasing harmful pollutants into the air.

Oman also places a strong emphasis on sustainability and renewable energy, according to the International Trade Administration. The country has a goal to reduce its carbon footprint and has invested in renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power, according to the International Trade Administration.

In comparison, the United States is

still heavily reliant on fossil fuels, which are a major source of air pollution. The lack of investment in renewable energy sources is a significant contributor to the air pollution problem in major U.S. cities, according to the EIA.

Another key factor is the cultural attitude towards cleanliness in Oman. Cleanliness is valued and viewed as an important part of daily life, and it is not uncommon for citizens to take personal responsibility for keeping their cities clean.

This is evident in the way people dispose of their waste, with many using the trash bins provided and taking care to ensure that litter does not end up on the streets. Oman's cultural and religious values also play a role in its clean cities.

Islam, the dominant religion in Oman, places a strong emphasis on cleanliness and respect for the environment. This cultural value is reflected in the way people behave and take care of their cities.

In comparison, the United States is a culturally diverse country, and environmental concerns are not as prominent in the national consciousness. This can lead to a lack of motivation to keep cities clean and to take action to protect the environment.

There is a lack of enforcement of littering laws in the United States and a lack of investment in waste management infrastructure. This has resulted in a culture of apathy and neglect towards cleanliness, with litter frequently seen on the streets and in public spaces.

When I visited Oman recently, I saw with my own eyes the pride that the Omani people, of all ages, have of their cities and country. The thought of not respecting the space they inhabit is viewed as disrespectful and it was a beautiful thing to witness.

I learned of these cleanliness laws from my tour guide Yahya and he described a feeling of peace that I felt as well because of the clean environment. I visited the gulf, the mountains, the desert and the city — each one more beautiful than the next — and I was able to appreciate the architecture and the nature without it being disturbed by waste.

I wish I could say the same about the United States. When I landed back at JFK airport, on my drive home, it was devastating to instantly see the stark contrast of cleanliness and pride in one's environment.

Some Americans might say "we have different priorities" or "our money should be spent on more important things," but having pride in where one lives, what one surrounds themselves with and how one treats their environment is an essential part of humanity.

Fines are implemented in the United States and should be a priority to be enforced. Perhaps higher fines or a higher penalty will deter people from damaging the city due to the highly enforced consequences.

Cleanliness is not just an aesthetic. It is rooted in showing how much you care about something, just like hygiene. This clearly shows the lack of importance Americans and the government take in the "hygiene of their cities."

The United States can learn from Oman's success by implementing stricter environmental regulations and enforcing them, investing in modern waste management systems and renewable energy and promoting a culture of environmental awareness. By doing so, the United States can help to create cleaner, more sustainable cities for future generations.

victoria.laferla@pepperdine.edu

Stop suffering in silence; start sharing



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Christopher Shon-Andrews
Staff Writer

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

Suffering is inevitable in the lives of all human beings. Christians inherently bear the responsibility of original sin from the fall of Adam.

Even those who don't hold any divine beliefs have come to understand they have to face the struggles of everyday life. There are a myriad of ways to cope with pain, but suffering in silence is not a plausible one.

Regardless of your personal beliefs, you will face suffering. The magnitude of facing that pain might range from staying focused on your homework to accepting the death of the one you love most.

"Great souls suffer in silence," a quote within the play "Don Carlos" by Friedrich Schiller, is a phrase that remains extremely relevant within contemporary times.

Silence and solitude are usually seen as synonymous to each other within the context of this phrase. For some peculiar reason, society conveys the message that extraordinary people must not burden others with their problems.

Yet, this poses arguably one of the most dangerous practices one can

commit against themselves. Human beings were never created to shoulder the immense burden of enduring the trials and tribulations of life alone. We are a highly sophisticated species of life form that requires social interaction. It would be an understatement to say that the act of suffering alone is a crime to oneself, let alone to others.

It's only self-evident that mental health relies on a particular individual's decision to share their struggles. If one decides to share their struggles, it's as if they are metaphorically distributing their suffocating burden. In doing so, their mental health is provided with positive encouragement by knowing that they have a supportive community, even during their darkest hours.

Unfortunately, the wrongly praised norm of suffering in silence seems to be a growing commonality within society. Statistics indicate 40% of men aren't willing to talk about their mental health, which also reflects their indifference for sharing about what they have to deal with according to The Priory Group — a provider of mental health care facilities in the United Kingdom.

There is a dire need to admire vulnerability among those you trust. Share what you are facing, especially if it's of greater importance.

A perfect case that would exemplify the catastrophic consequences of suffering in silence is the COVID-19 lockdown. It's been made clear, through a report given by Harvard University, that loneliness during the mandated lockdown has skyrocketed among men, women and children as well.

What might start off as a lack of

communicating the difficulties of personal struggles may lead to more negative experiences and possibly even an apathetic view toward life.

Now, that isn't to say everyone should be complaining about every minute detail of their day. There is an indisputable underlying truth behind the phrase of suffering in silence.

How would our world make any progress if everybody whined about one particular thing that isn't going their way?

We couldn't. It would be a heinous crime against humanity to fall into believing the whole world is against us.

Here's where things get complicated — despite suggesting you shouldn't complain about trivial matters, that isn't saying to minimize the smaller instances that bring you hardships. Rather, just be aware of what isn't worth ruminating over.

For instance, your friend might've been annoying today. The barista got your order wrong. You stubbed your toe on the bed frame — these are all quite unfortunate.

This might sound insensitive, but nobody needs — nor wants — to hear the complaints of such trivial matters. For such experiences, one can make the exception to suffer in silence.

However, if you find yourself struggling to find the motivation to climb out of bed every morning or even finding a good reason to live, do not feel the need to bear that excruciating pain by yourself. Don't make life harder than it already is.

chris.andrews@pepperdine.edu

'Just pray more' is more harmful than helpful

Faith Oh
Staff Writer

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

"Dear God, please help me not to be anxious. Please forgive me for my sins and lack of faith. I trust in you and your plans for me. I am trying to be better. I don't know when I will be, but please help me to be better. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

That was what I prayed nearly every morning before entering high school. While on its own it seemed harmless, I did not realize it came from a place of deep fear and guilt.

For years, I believed if my faith was strong enough, the anxiety and depression that burdened me daily would be resolved. The verses I took comfort in promised me restoration, but over the years, I only felt worse and worse. What was I doing wrong? Was I just a bad Christian?

What I didn't know then was that there were at least hundreds of other Christians who experienced this as well.

Kintsugi Hope, a mental health charity, surveyed about a thousand Christians of different denominations, and found of the 43% that experienced mental health issues, only 35% felt their church community was supportive, 91% believed mental health remained stigmatized and over half noted it was rarely spoken of in the church, according to Premier Christianity.

Stigma within the church can be subtle, but still harmful. Common examples include telling someone to simply pray, read the Bible more, trust only God to fix it, etc. Oftentimes, this counsel comes from

well-meaning families, friends and advisers.

But these responses to someone's suffering are simply "pat answers," a term used in physician Dwight L. Carson's book "Why Do Christians Shoot Their Wounded? Helping (Not Hurting) Those with Emotional Difficulties." On its own, simply telling struggling Christians to pray and read more is inadequate. There lies the problematic implication that if someone lives a perfect spiritual life, then they should be free of emotional illness.

"An honest answer would have been better than my 'scriptural one,'" Carson said.

As exemplified by my own experience, engaging in more spiritual practice did not cure my mental condition. That is not to say it was harmful or unhelpful. To an extent, my faith kept me going in difficult times. But at the core, I lacked the care and knowledge I truly needed to deal with my emotional turmoil.

Just as we require surgeries, medication and annual checkups for our physical health, we should take steps for our own mental health and be supportive of those who need it as well. Mental illness is not a sin or the result of a lack of faith, but a real, breathing affliction that permeates many, if not every, aspect of a person's life.

If someone opens up about their personal struggles, the best thing someone can do is simply listen. Keep an open mind and heart, embrace them for who they are, and if they ask, offer input and perhaps prayers. It might not feel as "productive" as counseling them right off the bat, but taking the time to listen will speak volumes.

Pepperdine Religion Professor Noemi Palomares also cautions Christians tend to jump into "savior mode."

"It would be a disservice to just put on our



HeeJoo Roh | Staff Artist

Christian hats and say, 'We're gonna love on you, no matter what.' Cause that might take a toll on our own mental health," Palomares said.

Everyone is deserving of love, and my hope is that people may find the courage and receive the care they need. It is by no means an easy journey — some days will feel like square one again. But there is hope, and contrary to what it may feel like, things can get better.

Though I wish my own church had spoken more on mental health, I consider myself very blessed and grateful for the support of my family and friends.

"If your religious space does not affirm your mental health, feel free to find a new one where you can feel safe to share," Palomares said.

faith.oh@pepperdine.edu

Find the positive when consumed by the negative

Emily Chase
Perspectives Editor

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

The news headlines from February have been nothing short of a promise of anxiety for its viewers. They are as follows: “Drink

bottled water, officials tell Ohio town hit by toxic train crash,” “She survived a high school shooting. At Michigan State, it happened again” and “Death toll climbs to 33,000 people in Turkey-Syria earthquake.”

In a world full of negativity, how are we supposed to listen to and understand the notions of staying positive?

To some it might be a burden to live in the world as it is now, not even from a pessimistic standpoint — that’s just how it is for them. However, learning

to see the blessings surrounding our immediate lives and not taking the moments we have for granted are how we, as humans, can learn to lead a more optimistic and hopeful lifestyle.

As a journalist, I find myself constantly taking in recent news that is almost always negative. My mind stays with these stories and the people they are about, and it becomes all-consuming. A popular phrase that swirls around society is “work-life balance.” This can translate across all avenues of life and will ultimately support an optimistic mentality and boosting moral in a low spirited world.

A work-life balance is defined as “the state of equilibrium where a person equally prioritizes the demands of one’s career and the demands of one’s personal life,” according to Business News Daily.

Specifically with that definition, the idea of having priorities can help with surviving the whirlwind of negativity and staying positive. If one prioritizes a family dinner over watching the news, there’s a chance for positivity.

When going out for a walk in nature instead of sitting on a phone, there are more benefits. Prioritizing the environment and people that surround a person on a daily basis can help someone recognize the blessings that inhabit their lives.

Worldwide negativity aside, people have personal struggles they must address, overcome and move on from. That is almost more difficult than reading about the crumbling corners of the world.

Often as a result of being at a Christian university, students are encouraged to turn to classmates, professors, counselors and most importantly, God.

When a circumstance challenges you, ask the question, “Why is this happening?” or “What is this teaching me or going to teach me?” There is a reason for everything in this world — God has a plan, and whether a person is religious or not, there is a meaning to the spiderweb of life events.

When looking at a bleak situation, understand there is an ultimate reason for it and look forward to the growth that will happen as a result. This will save a person a lot of agony and anxiety over it happening in the first place.

When being devoured by the unfortunate world events people so often see, take a step back and smell the air, pray, look at the sky, spend time with the ones you love and count at least three things you’re grateful for. Soon, the thing that occupied your brain and lived rent-free in your mind for so long will start to fade. The more this happens, the more it dissolves into a distant thought.

While it is good to feel negative emotions sometimes and get mad, angry, sad and disturbed, it shouldn’t define an entire person. These things shouldn’t be all you are.

Therefore, thank your loved ones, have faith, smile at the heartache and count the blessings and things you are grateful for and suddenly, life might seem a little less dim.



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

emily.chase@pepperdine.edu

Contributor: Pepperdine alumna visits U.N. climate change conference

Angelea Hayes
Guest Contributor

Transparency Item: This article is written by a guest contributor for the Graphic about her personal experience at this event. Angelea Hayes is a Pepperdine alumna ('22) who is a climate activist from Burbank, Calif.

A year ago, I watched the global climate negotiations take place from afar. At the time, I was struggling with severe climate anxiety. I was grieving the loss of a future I felt did not exist. I was overexposed to negative media and was spiraling, feeling burned out and immobilized by fear.

I felt helplessly disconnected from the room where officials were making decisions regarding my future. I felt I was too young to do anything and nobody of consequence would listen. Now more than ever, I’m sure the voices of young people are crucial to solving the climate crisis.

At the end of 2022, I attended the UN Climate Change Conference, COP27, with an official climate observer badge. I traveled with the Christian Climate Observers Program, an international coalition of individuals of faith involved in climate work.

I had the incredible opportunity to sit in on an exclusive roundtable with the U.S. Delegation to COP27 that Speaker Nancy Pelosi led. Representatives from numerous organizations had the opportunity to voice their concerns.

One of these organizations was Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, an NGO I have had the privilege of working with and which currently has fellows on the Pepperdine campus. Others were the Sierra Club, Earth Uprising, National Congress of American Indians, NAACP, Robert Bullard, Beverly Wright and

Peggy Sheppard — some important players in the movement.

My colleague, Elsa Barron, addressed the panel and shared her faith in the face of the climate crisis. She admitted while the evangelical church has historically been closed off to conversations on climate change, faith communities hold a lot of potential for mobilization. Barron herself demonstrates Christians engaging in climate action that can be incredibly passionate, dedicated and value-driven.

There were representatives from other faith groups, and they echoed her statement that acting on climate is one of the best ways we can love our neighbors like Scripture calls us to. Pelosi remarked that young people of faith have a unique and integral role in influencing their spiritual communities.

As the panel concluded, Pelosi asserted we owe it to children to fight for a safe future. Outside, she approached Barron and I, articulating a need for young people of faith to help “turn the tide in favor of climate action,” especially in the Republican party, by talking to their parents.

About a week and a half after the event, Pelosi announced she would be stepping down as Speaker. Since then, the title has recently turned over to the GOP, proving her sentiment a timely call to action.

My encounter with American political power at COP27 taught me three things:

1. Your actions do matter. Your community is always listening, and they care what you say. You already have access to so many potentially receptive actors, so make it count.

2. The voices of youth specifically do matter, but we can’t solve the crisis alone. This year’s climate conference featured the largest youth presence yet. Youth and the unborn are arguably the biggest stakeholders in the climate crisis. The gap between the concerns of

the next generation and the action being made is closing, but there is still much work to be done.

3. There is so much passion and dedication that already exists in our world. The fact that 44,000 people showed up those two weeks in Egypt is a testament to this. Sometimes, as a young activist, it feels that progress is too slow and that there is nothing being done.

After COP27, I realized I was not alone. The stories of the individuals I met there showed me the power of grassroots activism. There is momentum and a growing movement in faith spaces. God willing, it will only continue to grow.

In the previous weeks, there has been discussion about whether COP27 was a success or a failure, and there are valid arguments for both sides. We must not let the conversation end there. At the very least, take heart in the fact that there will be many more COPs. But, what happens in between the COPs is just as crucial.

My call to action is this: get involved in whatever group you can, like Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, Defend Our Future, Climate Reality Project or any organization in the U.S. Climate Action Network, and tell your state and community representatives to take climate action.

Listen to the voices of the youth — if you are the youth, speak up. The wellbeing of all creation depends on it. Join me in choosing hope over fear and action over despair.

angeleahayes17@gmail.com

RANT



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

No thanks, icky Humboldt Fog cheese

Lisette Isiordia
Designer

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

Hear me out. While I may not be a cheese connoisseur, I do enjoy a wide variety of the delectable dairy product.

A nice sharp white cheddar? Amazing. A creamy brie? Absolutely. A smokey aged gouda? Yes, please. However, Humboldt Fog? Not it for me.

I had high hopes and expectations — I mean, a random man with blue hair had recommended it to Sammie and I in the Ralphs' cheese aisle, and later that evening Sammie was literally eating it by the spoonful. However, when I took a bite, I was instantly confused and repulsed at the experience.

This cheese gave me “the ick,” to say the least.

My taste buds attempted to piece everything together, from its flavor

notes to its texture. Unfortunately, the only conclusion they came to was they never wanted to endure that cheese ever again.

Maybe I just need a more acquired taste? Or maybe I shouldn't take cheese recommendations from a stranger with blue hair when shopping at Ralphs? All I know is this cheese should just disappear into the fog and never come back.

If you want a good cheese, I highly recommend Trader Joe's Unexpected Cheddar. This one takes first place in my books with its crumbly but creamy texture and delightful tangy flavor. It is definitely the ideal selection for an evening charcuterie board or even a cream-based sauce — it should be on your grocery list the next time you're at Trader Joe's.

lisette.isiordia@pepperdine.edu

RAVE



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Humboldt Fog is anything but humble

Sammie Wuensche
Assistant Photo Editor

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

When my friend Lisette and I pulled up to Ralphs to get a tiramisu for our roommate's birthday, I had no idea my cheese-loving life was about to change for the better.

Across the parking lot, I spotted a man, probably in his '60s, with bright blue hair.

I pointed him out to Lisette as we made our way into the store.

Immediately deterred from our tiramisu efforts, I subconsciously made my way to the cheese section and perused the various bries and parmesans.

To my surprise, the mysterious blue-haired man was also looking through the cheeses. He offered me a cheese recommendation.

“This cheese wins the competition

every year,” the stranger said.

I never was able to determine what competition he was referring to.

We walked out of Ralphs with our tiramisu and my newly purchased “Humboldt Fog.”

I am not lying when I tell you this is the best cheese I've ever tasted.

It's decadent, delicious and perfect in every way. While “humble” may be in its name, its flavor is anything but.

Humboldt Fog is perfectly crafted from goat's milk in Cypress Grove, Calif. While I am not normally a fan of goat cheese, this one is different. It's smooth in texture and sharp in taste.

I may not know what competition the Humboldt Fog won, but whatever it was, it deserved it.

samantha.wuensche@pepperdine.edu

BIG WAVES COMIC

Art by Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Written by Luke Franklin | Guest Contributor



LIFE & ARTS

Dance in Flight: Students celebrate 'Symbiosis' through movement

Milena D'Andrea
Staff Writer

Student dancers took to the stage for Dance in Flight in Smothers Theatre from Feb. 9 to 11. The directors landed on the theme of "Symbiosis" to guide their choreography, aesthetic and musical choices, Producer and Campus Programs Coordinator Emily Rauch and Director Maya Kough wrote in the program.

Dance in Flight allows students to assume roles in directing, choreography, production, filming and dancing. Alongside Rauch and Kough, senior Annabella Nordlund was the student director and senior Kate Dalforno was the assistant student director of the show.

The company held auditions in August for dancers of all talents, Rauch and Kough wrote. They wrote they were excited to share the culmination of their six months of creating, rehearsing and refining with the Pepperdine community.

"Symbiosis' represents people from all different backgrounds crossing paths and sharing their passions and love for dance with one another," said sophomore Simone Chaddha, dancer, choreographer and director of marketing.

The theme of "Symbiosis" explored the interactions and ties between counterparts. This theme was portrayed in the titles and visuals of the performances: "community/individuality," "ebb/flow," "control/abandon," "conflict/resolution," "conformity/resistance," "mentor/student," "i/colony," "anxious/avoidant," "water/earth/fire/air," "mother/daughter," "recognition/provision," "inner self/outer self," "body/mind" and "ending/beginning."

"Symbiosis' to me means a sense of community and belonging to a whole," first-year dancer Kaulilikoikekai Abrigo said. "It is the act of relying on each other, so both parties benefit in a harmonious manner."

In between each act, a glowing circle lit the stage with filmed footage of the

dancers paired with simple and repetitive phrases.

"One of my favorite parts of the show is our transition visuals in between the routines," Chaddha said. "Our assistant student director Kate Dalforno filmed the dancers during the Dance in Flight photoshoot from a birdseye view with a drone. The footage came together so well."

Abrigo said dancers in the show spent countless hours rehearsing and dedicated their Saturdays since September to make sure the show was perfect. She said she has been dancing since the age of 2 and Dance in Flight provided her with the perfect opportunity to continue dancing in college.

Similarly, first-year Audrey Costa, dancer and choreographer, said Dance in Flight helped her to quickly find her place within the Pepperdine community.

"Throughout this chaotic world we must find security and support in others," Costa said. "Dance in Flight has been a sense of support and comfort

for me during the transition into college life."

The show included multiple dance styles — jazz, ballet, tap, contemporary, hip-hop and more. The numbers also incorporated many popular songs like "Fireball" by Pitbull, "Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen and "Amazing" by Rex Orange County.

"My favorite parts of the show are Simone's jazz funk number, Annabella's contemporary and all the transition videos," Costa said. "I love all the pieces and genuinely wish I could be in every single one of them."

Dance in Flight had four nearly sold-out shows and sophomore Ava Moreno said the show left a lasting impression on her as an audience member.

"The show was amazing and the artistry was beautiful," Moreno said. "It made me want to take up dancing again."

Abrigo said the show embodies the "Symbiosis" through a shared passion for dance. She said the dancers have to rely on each other to express their combined joy outwardly with the audience.

"My favorite moment when performing is waiting on stage for the curtain to come up," Abrigo said. "It reminds me of the thrill of not only dancing but why I love to dance — to express the message and stories through movement in hopes that the audience will be moved."

milena.dandrea@pepperdine.edu

Sammie Wuensche | Assistant Photo Editor

Dancers performing in Dance in Flight. This dance titled "Ebb/Flow," was in the first act.



Dance in Flight

Students perform in various dances in Dance In Flight. The show captured the theme of "Symbiosis" and used movement to explore the interactions between counterparts.



"recognition/ provision"



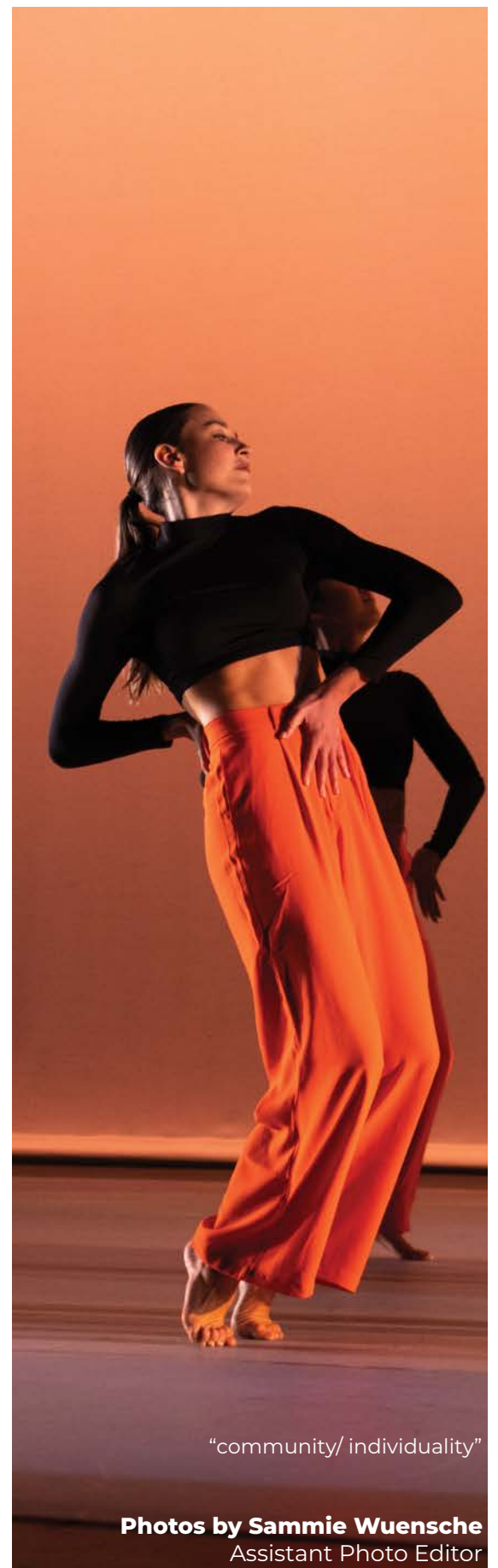
"mother/ daughter"



"ending/ beginning"



"mentor/ student"



"community/ individuality"

Photos by **Sammie Wuensche**
Assistant Photo Editor



Walking in Faith:

Pepperdine students share their spiritual journeys

Lauren Goldblum
Staff Writer

Since 1937, Pepperdine has embraced its founding principles of encouraging students to live lives full of faith and purpose, according to the school's History webpage. While the school remains committed to its roots in the Churches of Christ, the spiritual life on campus reflects a diverse community consisting of a multitude of faiths and religious backgrounds, according to the University's vision.

Students have said Pepperdine has given them the ability to elevate and affirm their spiritual identity. Yet, others said they face challenges navigating a network of various branches of Christianity.

Senior Nick Barron and junior Zacharias Tapp said their time at Pepperdine shaped their faith through both community and worship.

"I think it's [Pepperdine] made me stronger in my faith because it's taught me to really develop my own personal relationship with the Lord," Barron said.

Barron said his walk with Jesus did not start at Pepperdine. Rather, he said his transition into campus life posed a challenge when adjusting to a community where believers expressed their faith differently than his church back home in south Florida.

"My spirituality was defined by that tangible experience with God and when I came to Pepperdine that's actually not how people really experienced their faith," Barron said. "That was really hard for me and that's kind of been a huge part of my journey at Pepperdine."

Barron described his home church as a circle of charismatic Christians who "believe and have a sense of a living,

moving and active Holy Spirit."

Barron said Pepperdine's diverse spiritual life on campus strengthened his faith. It encouraged him to develop his own personal relationship with the Lord outside of Bible studies, church and the culture of the University, he said.

Since his first year at Pepperdine, Barron said he enjoyed active involvement in multiple spiritual life activities on campus. These include taking part in student-led ministry Word Up, serving as a spiritual life adviser and The Well — a weekly spiritual gathering that includes singing and a brief message from various speakers.

During his junior year, Barron gained an official position with the Hub for Spiritual Life as a worship leader and mentor, helping students grow in their relationship with the Lord. Barron said he encourages students to cultivate their own intimate relationships with Jesus — independent from what others around them may believe.

Barron said he is grateful for the relationships he has gained through his involvement with the Hub. He said he enjoys writing congregational worship songs and creating new projects with his co-leaders to continually deepen and improve the spiritual life on campus.

"I've been learning to navigate how to still be Christian and still walk in faith with other people, that's been a huge journey for me too — coming out of a bubble," Barron said.

Tapp said Christianity has always been a central part of his life, but it was not until eighth grade where he began to seek a more personal connection with God.

Tapp was raised in Las Vegas and attended a Pentecostal church — a branch of Christianity that focuses on

the movement and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to an article by the Pew Research Center. Like Barron, Tapp said this was an experience he found very different when transitioning to Pepperdine.

Tapp's parents were actively involved in their local church and he said his family felt called to open their own church when he was still in middle school. Adjusting to a new church community was difficult, Tapp said, as his previous church had always felt like home to him. Yet, he said he was honored to see God move in his family's life.

“
I think it's
[Pepperdine] made
me stronger in my
faith because it's
taught me to really
develop my own
personal relationship
with the Lord.

Nick Barron
Senior

"It's just really fulfilling to see where it [the church] started and where it's at now and just how many people's lives were affected so it's been really cool," Tapp said.

Tapp said he was most drawn to Pepperdine because of its emphasis on community and the lasting impact on students' lives during both their time at Pepperdine and post-graduation. The

Colton Rubsamen | Staff Photographer

The Well worship team performs songs of praise in the Amphitheatre on Jan. 26. The worship team performs during The Well service every Thursday evening during the academic year.

school's diverse student body allowed Tapp to engage with others from all walks of life and experience the many expressions of Christianity.

Tapp said he's realized each student has a unique relationship with God that's conveyed differently — whether it's through group worship, discussions with others or basking in the intimate quietness of alone time with God.

"I think the community at Pepperdine has just exposed me to so many different perspectives and views and ways of practicing Christianity and serving God which I think is the best part of Pepperdine," Tapp said.

Tapp's role in the Hub began when he applied for the Spiritual Leadership Cohort Scholarship, which he described as a selective group of eight-to-nine students serving as spiritual leaders on campus. Recipients take on a variety of leadership roles such as leading worship ministries and working in the Hub office.

Tapp attributes the most transformational piece of his journey to his mentor, Worship Director Ko Ku, who leads the Pepperdine worship band in weekly praise and worship during The Well.

"He [Ku] just really takes the time to get to know students beyond their musical talents," Tapp said. "He just genuinely cares about students and [makes] sure that they're emotionally and spiritually OK."

Both Barron and Tapp said their time at Pepperdine has been a season of growth and an opportunity to expand their perspective on what it means to walk through life with Jesus.

lauren.goldblum@pepperdine.edu

New year, new trends: Students spill current social media styles

Lauren Goldblum
Life & Arts Assistant

California may be exempt from the bitter frostbite and blinding snowstorms that pervade many Midwest and East Coast states. However, that doesn't stop Californians from breaking into the latest trends this winter season, according to a Who What Wear blog post.

Many of the current top trends crept into society through popular influencers and fashion icons parading their new must-have staples on platforms such as Instagram and TikTok, according to an article by Forbes.

While social media platforms such as TikTok can provide a fun way to engage with the most recent trends, senior Emily Castillo also cautioned against becoming too influenced by social media.

"If someone is carried on by technology and by social media I think that's dangerous because some things could be triggering for some people," Castillo said.

While some of these trends have garnered much attention and are here to stay, others appear less practical and students said they question whether they're worth the investment. Students shared how certain items such as the Ugg Tazz Slippers, Stanley cups, belt bags, cosmetic products and more are some of the most popular yet controversial products on social media.

Senior Jasmine Tapia said she is a keen observer of rising fashion trends, stemming from both social media and her job at Lululemon. Working at Lululemon, she said she notices many of their athletic products reflect the increasing popularity of specific trends across other brands such as their bags and straight-leg pants.

Tapia said skinny jeans no longer hold the high status they received in previous years as many public influencers have recently been featuring a more '90s style look. Tapia said several of Lululemon's new products, such as their Loungeful Straight Leg and Groove Super High-Rise Flared Pant are embracing this trend.

Tapia also said Lululemon's Everywhere Belt Bag, which launched in 2018, has become immensely popular on social media — the same bag that was listed as the number one best belt bag in an article by the New York Post. While Tapia said she is in favor of the rising trends in athletic wear, she remains hesitant about others.

"One trend I think is kind of

overhyped is the Stanley cups just because I feel like it's not realistic to carry them throughout your day," Tapia said.

Tapia said the awkward handles, large straws and bulky size are all characteristics that can't compete with smaller and more nimble water bottles such as Hydroflask.

Named the fastest-growing equipment accessories brand by the New Product Development, the new Stanley Tumbler has become the new must-have essential after digital content creators raved about the new quencher online, according to The New York Times.

"Mostly TikTok is where I see all the trends but a lot of ads do come up on Instagram," Castillo said.

An artist at heart, Castillo said art-based posts on social media featuring colorful creations on various objects inspired her. This led her to display her own style and passion for art on both her clothes and everyday essentials.

"I followed a lot of Bob Ross' ways of painting on water bottles and added my own twist to it," Castillo said.

Realizing that her water bottles could become her new canvas in 2017, Castillo then began commissioning her own in 2019 and has continued ever since. Castillo also shares her personal designs on her art-based Instagram account.

Castillo is not the only one turning to TikTok for trend inspiration. The mainstream video-sharing platform has been elevated beyond just be-



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Senior Emily Castillo poses with her painted Hydroflask and art club hoodie on Main Campus on Feb. 14. Castillo said art-based social media posts and Bob Ross' paintings inspire her work.



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Junior Peyton Stewart poses with her makeup on Main Campus on Feb. 14. Students shared the recent trends that have emerged from social media and influencers.

ing a popular site used between friends — it's also a massive marketing platform for products, such as Ugg's Tazz Slippers.

The Tasman slippers gained immense popularity and sold out online multiple times after going viral on TikTok with more than 13 million views under the hashtag #uggtasman-slippers, according to an article by Forbes.

Social media doesn't stop at fashion trends. Castillo also mentioned a new up-and-coming trend she's noticed are pH makeup products such as Tarte's maracuja juicy lip & cheek shift. This iconic lip product is fully customized to adapt to each customer's unique shade and can be used as both a lip product and a blush, according to Tarte's website.

Junior Peyton Stewart is an avid Instagram, YouTube and TikTok user and frequently turns to these platforms to keep up with the newest rising trends. Stewart said one of the most popular trend influencers is Alix Earle — a fashion and cosmetics icon, known for her content on TikTok and Instagram.

"The reason that she's so

trendy is she's super relatable," Stewart said. "Not many of us can relate to a girl that's going to Drake's birthday party in Miami, like that's the kind of girl that she is, but she's so down to earth."

With more than four million followers on TikTok, Earle's large sphere of influence allows her to effectively promote new emerging products such as the Rare Beauty liquid blush. Earle posted a TikTok video of her makeup routine featuring the cream-based blush Feb. 8. Stewart said the product is one of the most up-and-coming trends after Earle's video reached over 180,000 views.

"Skincare is a huge thing for me because it's part of my day where I can just relax and I think it's a really good trend because trends can sometimes be super toxic," Stewart said.

While Stewart is a huge fan of makeup and skincare products, she also keeps up with trends outside the fashion and cosmetics industry. Specifically, Stewart said the 12-3-30 workout routine has been circling on social media recently. Inspired by social media influencer Lauren Giraldo, this seemingly simple routine has become the new go-to exercise regimen for those new to the fitness realm or just starting out on their health journey, Stewart said.

"The results from it are insane," Stewart said. "It sounds super easy but if you try to do it, it's really hard."

While many fitness routines involve intense cardio or heavy weights, Stewart said she appreciates Giraldo's program because it is easier on muscles and joints and sparks confidence in those who may be less experienced gym-goers.

Social media has made substantial bounds in recent years not only for networking and virtual connection but also as a platform for creating global influence. While some students embrace the world of influencer culture, others remain skeptical of becoming overly immersed in the frenzy of trends.



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Stewart's makeup, which includes the Rare Beauty liquid blush. Stewart said social media influencer Alix Earle has contributed to recent popularity with certain makeup products.

lauren.goldblum@pepperdine.edu

Galentine's Day gatherings solidify friendships

Emma Ibarra
Staff Writer

Every Feb. 14, couples traditionally celebrate their love with standard romantic tactics such as going out to dinner and buying more roses and chocolate than usual.

However, trends of self-love and admiration have inspired the celebration of Galentine's Day, a rival holiday to Valentine's Day that addresses friendship — a love which is often swept under the rug, first-year Delaney Dickey said.

"I think the connotation is that Valentine's Day is more romantic, and Galentine's Day is more friendly," Dickey said. "But I think if you don't have that romantic aspect of your life, Valentine's Day has a more friendly connotation anyway, so I think it's situational."

With platonic love being integral to one's life, Feb. 13, has been established as National Galentine's Day, according to National Today. Valentine's Day may draw attention to one's romantic life and significant others, but Galentine's Day allows friends to healthily declare their friendly love for one another without having to

fuss over amorous specifics.

Students said the holiday is a refreshing and reaffirming celebration of their personal relationships with friends, families and other non-romantic companions who make life more enjoyable.

Students explored all the possibilities of the Galentine's and Valentine's seasons through celebrations with friends. Junior Fransheska Companioni-Daroch said she hosted a Galentine's Day dinner with 12 of her closest friends over Valentine's Day weekend to show her appreciation for her platonic pals.

"Life is better lived when you celebrate it, and Galentine's is the perfect opportunity to celebrate your favorite people," Companioni-Daroch said.

Dickey also attended the Galentine's Day gathering and expressed her admiration for the event's aesthetic V-Day decor and food selection.

"It was super Instagram-y, and super cute," Dickey said. "We tried to make heart-shaped pizzas and they didn't turn out very well, but Fran's killed it."

As the two girls laughed

humbly about one another's pizza-shaping skills, Companioni-Daroch shared her story on why Valentine's Day is special to her.

"I feel like my family always does something, like my dad and brother will go out and get my mom and me Valentine's presents, which has always been a really cute tradition," Companioni-Daroch said.

Students said there is multiple ways to spend the holiday, whether that's with friends, significant others or alone. Companioni-Daroch said the meaning of Valentine's Day changes each year for her.

"I guess it just depends on where I'm at in my life and what's going on," Companioni-Daroch said. "Valentine's Day means love to me. Every kind of love."

Dickey agreed and expressed how her sorority, Tri Delta, is working to include everyone in the love during Valentine's Day season.

"Tri-Love is Tri Delta's extension to the community at Pepperdine, so it just has little things that people can just come up and do— just to kind of bring more community aside from just the exclusivity



Photo courtesy of Tri Delta Instagram

Mia Boyd, Ellie Torgerson and Morgan Purdy (left to right) pose for a photo outside of the Caf in September. Tri Delta hosted a variety of events for Tri-Love Week in honor of Valentine's Day.

of Greek life," Dickey said.

The organization's week-long event will last from Feb. 13 to 17, and Dickey said students are encouraged to enjoy daily activities on main campus that promote love and inclusion within the Pepperdine community.

While students may feel loneliness this Valentine's Day season, Dickey said it's import-


ant to remember just how significant platonic love is in one's life.

"I think Valentine's Day is a reminder to think about the relationships that you have and cherishing them," Dickey said.

emma.ibarra@pepperdine.edu

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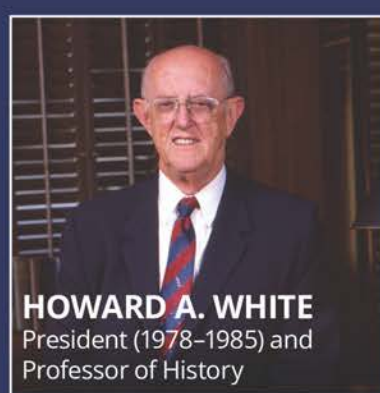
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Please take a few moments to consider that one very special professor from your Pepperdine days and submit your nomination. More information about the award and an online nomination form can be found at


pepperdine.edu/provost/awards

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Coaches contract deals can provide continuity

Jerry Jiang
Sports Editor

Pepperdine Women's Indoor Volleyball Head Coach Scott Wong has called Malibu his home since 1998. As a student-athlete, he led the Waves to two Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Tournament Championships and played in three NCAA Tournaments, according to Pepperdine Athletics.

As head coach, Wong saw three straight NCAA tournament appearances from 2020 to 2022, according to Pepperdine Athletics.

Wong signed a contract extension through the 2027 season, Pepperdine Athletics announced in a press release Jan. 23.

Wong said extending a player or a coach's contract long-term could make for a positive impact on a team's performance.

"If it's a head coach, or a couple of players, any big transition can hurt a team's success and the continuity," Wong said. "The biggest thing is the continuity of a team."

Coaches Extended at Pepperdine

Along with Wong, Pepperdine Women's Golf Head Coach Laurie Gibbs signed a contract extension through the 2028 season, Pepperdine Athletics announced in a Jan. 27 press release. Women's Golf placed sixth at the NCAA regional last season.

The beauty of college sports is the team is different every year, Wong said.

"A head coach can help stabilize a team as it sets the vision that lays out expectations and walks within the steps of trying to be more and more successful every year," Wong said. "It's really important in terms of that continuity piece."

Gibbs wrote she had no thoughts of leaving Pepperdine when she signed the extension. She plans to retire from coaching at Pepperdine, Gibbs wrote in a Feb. 1 email to the Graphic.

Gibbs wrote there have been a number of Power Five schools trying to recruit her over the years.

"I have been exceptionally happy coaching at Pepperdine," Gibbs wrote.

From Player to Coach — Coach Wong's History at Pepperdine

Wong's history with Pepperdine started in 1998, when Wong played for the Men's Volleyball team. After his playing career, he transitioned into coaching, where he was an assistant to then-Head Coach Marv Dunphy for four seasons from 2005 to 2009, according to Pepperdine Athletics.

Wong said he knew Director of Athletics Steve Potts when Potts was the assistant athletic director. As a student athlete, Wong said there was some familiarity, but said it's a little different on the coaching side in terms of responsibility and perspective.

"All of it helped prepare me to be in a pretty good spot," Wong said. "To not only have that conversation but to feel confident enough knowing what I had to do in order to carry this program forward during my tenure."

Building a relationship with Potts helped during the contract extension conversation, Wong said. Wong said there are around 10 years of experience

between him and Potts.

"The conversation just started, 'Hey, I want to stay here,'" Wong said. "[It was] pretty straightforward and simple. And then, we just worked towards an agreement and a contract."

“
If it's a head coach, or a couple of players, any big transition can hurt a team's success and the continuity.

Scott Wong
Women's Indoor Volleyball
Head Coach

Gibbs Stays Loyal to Pepperdine

When then-Athletic Director Wayne Wright interviewed Gibbs in 1993, Gibbs had a proposal for the program that included raising money, increasing scholarships, finding more golf courses, playing in top tournaments and recruiting players that could be All Americans and Academic All Americans, Gibbs wrote.

Wright was surprised with Gibbs' proposal and asked if she really believed she could achieve all of her goals. Gibbs wrote she was very confident, and the University hired her soon after.

Gibbs wrote the team's success is in great part due to the young women who have represented Pepperdine Women's Golf. She wrote she is proud of the consistency and organization of the program over the past 30 years. Recruits and parents love Pepperdine's family environment and know there is stability within the program, Gibbs wrote.

Players Versus Coaches

Ned Colletti, executive in Residence in Sports Administration, spent six years as general manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Before then, he was the assistant general manager of the San Francisco Giants from 1994 to 2015, according to LinkedIn.

In the summer of 2014, Colletti signed Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw to a seven-year, \$215 million deal, which was the largest contract a pitcher had signed up to that point, according to Bleacher Report.

"As somebody who had won three Cy Young [awards] and a National League Most Valuable Player, [he's someone who's] very rare, an outstanding person [and] a competitor," Colletti said. "Every category you want to put out there, he'll check the box at the highest level."

Colletti said there are far more executives who would aspire to be managers than there are in closer proximity talent-wise than players.

In the MLB, there are currently 30 managers — one for every club, according to Baseball Reference. As for the players, there were 1,250 players to start the 2022 MLB season, according to Statista. Each team is allowed 26 players on their roster, according to MLB.

"There's only so many elite players, I mean, elite," Colletti said. "Anybody that can play in the big leagues is elite.



Caitlyn Garcia | Staff Photographer

Pepperdine Women's Indoor Volleyball huddles together during a timeout versus Santa Clara on Oct. 7, in Firestone Fieldhouse. Head Coach Scott Wong boasts a 144-87 overall record, according to Pepperdine Athletics.

Then, in that category, you've got elites among the elite. But, executive [coaches] have far fewer choices, far more competition for positions than players do."

A general manager knows what they've seen from a player's standpoint, Colletti said.

"You know their habits — you know their work ethic. You know how they prioritize. You know them," Colletti said. "And, so that leads you in one direction or another, and if it leads you to an extension, it leads you to a term and dollar figure that, in your mind, represents the contributions of the person/player for extension."

As for the managers, Colletti said he determined the success of a manager from record and strategy but also by how hard and fundamentally soundly the team plays.

"That is usually a direct result of a manager and a coaching staff," Colletti said. "Many times, it's an indicator. If you have a team that maybe lacks talent to compete, but they play hard and are fundamentally sound — that goes to the players."

Colletti said it also goes to the leadership's credit.

"That's really one of the things that, in my opinion, they're responsible for," Colletti said. "It's teaching the game and making sure players execute it and making sure the players pay attention."

Contract: Before and Now

The biggest difference he's seen from his career to now in Major League Baseball is the years with extensions, Colletti said.

"Seeing the extensions that are 10 years or longer were very rare in my career," Colletti said.

Colletti said a three or four-year extension was considered a long extension.

"Five years was really long," Colletti said. "We got into an era of about 10 or 15-year contracts. Before, six or seven years was the going rate. But, now, you see numerous players sign for over 10 years, and it's always a gamble."

The influx of revenue, television, regional sports networks, tickets and sales has grown the sport of baseball magnificently through many decades, Colletti said.

"If I go back all 40 years, certainly

the rate of pay has changed dramatically," Colletti said. "The highest-paid player was making was 60% of what the lowest-paid player would make today."

Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout currently holds the longest baseball contract in the MLB, according to Spotrac. Trout signed 14-year extension worth \$430 million in the 2019 offseason, according to MLB.

Unlike the other major sports leagues such as the NBA, NHL or NFL, the MLB does not include a salary cap when signing players or coaches. The salary cap is a limit to which the employee can earn, according to Sport Management Degrees Guide.

The New York Yankees' payroll was over \$210 million in 2020, according to Dodger Blue. In contrast, the Golden State Warriors payroll in the 2022-23 season was over \$123,655,000, marking it the highest payroll in the entire NBA, according to HoopsHype. Warriors guard Stephen Curry is the highest-paid player in the 2022-23 season, and his "super-max" contract was a four-year, \$215 million deal, according to Boardroom.

Favorite Memories

Wong said what means the most to him about coaching is building relationships.

"The relationship I and our coaches have with our players in the team and our players amongst each other," Wong said. "So, I think it's pretty neat to experience."

The neat part about being a coach is seeing the players who have graduated and moved on starting to get married and having kids, Wong said.

"We try to have the team over to my house," Wong said. "They're my family, and the team are pretty integrated, and so they get to know me really well, and then, to be able to go to a wedding and have these past players all there and just be able to experience that, and that's happened a couple of times."

L.A. hosts 2023 NASCAR Clash event

Jerry Jiang
Sports Editor

The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum hosted the Busch Light NASCAR Clash on Feb. 5, as NASCAR is celebrating its diamond year — the 75th anniversary of the sport.

Though this is a preseason event, there's still quite a bit at stake with the Clash, according to NBC Sports. Last year, Team Penske driver Joey Logano won the Clash — ousting Richard Childress Racing driver Kyle Busch. Logano won the 2022 NASCAR Cup Series.

This year, it was Joe Gibbs Racing driver Martin Truex Jr. who drove away with the victory. Truex Jr. fought off Richard Childress Racing driver Austin Dillon in a split .786-second margin. Truex Jr. led the way for the last 25 laps of the 150-lap race in the preseason event. Logano — last year's winner — came in 16th.

"We're one for one right now," Truex Jr. said. "That's a good way to start. The Daytona 500 is a huge race. It's the biggest race of the year for us, and to go there with momentum is great. [We've] been really close there before. It'd be an awesome one to check off the list."

The 22-year veteran was shut out from a playoff appearance after winning 29 races between 2015-2022, according to CBS Sports.

"Martin's a different person right now," crew chief James Small said. "He's super motivated. And we're all behind him. You saw it when we got it right. Today is what we're capable of."

Drivers — Start Your Engines

For the past 47 years, the preseason event was held at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. This was the second year NASCAR switched venues to Los Angeles. NASCAR transformed USC's football field into a .25 mile-wide track, according to USA Today.

"It's all very challenging with a quarter-mile racetrack," said Todd Gilliland, Front Row Motorsport Ford driver. "I feel fortunate. This is kind of what I grew up racing on more out here on the west coast. But, for a lot of these guys, it's the most challenging thing — just getting used to the small track and all



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Drivers line up ahead of the NASCAR Clash at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Feb. 5. Though the event was a preseason race, fans and drivers packed the Coliseum to see the show.

that goes along with that."

Besides the main event, the festivities also included the qualifying heat. Drivers will have to compete in one of four heat races in order to qualify for the main event, according to USA Today. Musician Wiz Khalifa also performed the halftime show.

"It's always a cool event for us to get our season started doing something different than what we normally do," Steward-Haas Racing driver Chase Briscoe said. "It's a cool atmosphere with the Coliseum and everything the game represents. It's a great way for us to start off the season."

The excitement for everyone was really high, Gilliland said, because the race was an exhibition event and won't count for points in the NASCAR Cup Series.

"That's something that is really cool about NASCAR — everyone comes here with such high hopes," Gilliland said. "Some guys have good seasons, some guys have bad [seasons], but, at least at this point, everyone's excited about what's to come."

In addition to the shorter track, NASCAR added four more drivers to the fold — making the total participants 27 instead of the 23 in 2022. As a result of the short track and the increased drivers, there were a total of 12 caution flags in the race, four before the halfway point.

"Everybody knows there's going to be contact," Dillon said. "It was just back and forth. It knocked the wheel out of my hands."

Dillon got into a squabble with 23XI Racing driver Bubba Wallace as the race was winding down. Dillon and Wallace were neck-and-neck, and as Wallace was just about to edge Dillon, Dillon got the better of Wallace, and Wallace spun, hitting the fence, according to Racing News.

Wallace complained to NASCAR with some expletives, according to AP News. But, Busch said it didn't feel much different.

NASCAR Keeps on Innovating

Additionally, NASCAR and Ally Financial Inc. announced a league-wide sponsorship during a press conference before the race. The combined effort will expand the financial institution's presence in the sport with Ally Bank being the Official Consumer Bank of NASCAR and NASCAR owned-tracks, according to a press release. Alex Bowman — the main athlete sponsoring Ally — had been supporting the company since 2019.

Ally helped increase the popularity of racing in Nashville, Tenn. By having Bowman as its lead athlete, Ally was able to help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in an effort to rescue animals with the Best Friends Animal Society, according to the press release.

"It's super cool to see Ally and NASCAR teaming up," Bowman said in an interview with host Monica Palumbo. "Obviously, everyone's better off with Ally. I'm really excited for them, and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Andrea Brimmer, Ally's chief marketing and public relations officer, said they loved every minute of the ride since becoming a sponsor of No. 48, from

seeing the growth in popularity of the sport to the increased diversity among team ownership.

"The timing couldn't be better for us to complement our wonderful relationship with Hendrick Motorsports by expanding our footprint as an official NASCAR sponsor," Brimmer said in the press release.

As for the rest of the season, NASCAR continues raise the bar, Briscoe said. Similarly to the Clash, NASCAR will host another event with a unique track called the Chicago Street Race on July 1-2. Instead of a traditional race track, drivers will be racing through the heart of downtown Chicago, according to Nascar Chicago.

"I think it's really cool for them to kind of do something different," Briscoe said. "Racing in the Chicago streets is something that we've never done before as an industry, so it'll be really cool to be a part of that event."

Looking Ahead in NASCAR

Though the Clash is one of NASCAR's most anticipated events, Small said he thinks it should always be an exhibition.

"I'm not sure in the way our championship works and everything," Small said. "I don't know how you could structure it to be fair to everybody. How do you have competitive pit-stops [when] you can't even fit the whole field on?"

With Truex Jr. winning the Clash, he said he's been more determined and has a lot of "fire in his belly" to go out and change what the team did last year.

"It's just nice when it all works out, and you come to the track, and things go the way you hoped they would, and hopefully we can do a lot more of that," Truex Jr. said.

Catch NASCAR's next race in the fabled Daytona 500 on Feb. 16, in Daytona Beach, Fla.



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Joe Gibbs Racing driver Joey Logano smiles as he prepares for the NASCAR Clash at the Los Angeles Coliseum on Feb. 5. Logano won the NASCAR Clash in 2022 and eventually won the NASCAR Cup Series.

Athletes share their tattoo stories

Alex Clarke
Staff Writer

Tattoos can be a way for people to showcase the most important aspects of who they are and where they come from.

Six Pepperdine athletes said they represent the most important aspects of their lives with permanent tattoos.

“You can get a painting and have it on your house somewhere, but being able to put something permanent on your body is showing beauty,” Men’s Water Polo junior center Travis Reynolds said.

Matt Quintanar - Baseball

The date June 13 is particularly important to Quintanar, he said as he pointed to the tattoo on his forearm.

“[June 13] is my sister’s birthday. She shares the same birthday with my dad, and she passed away my freshman year of high school,” Quintanar said. “I cared very much for her and would do anything to talk to her again.”

For Quintanar, he said he views his sister as an inspiration.

“[I looked up to her] trying to become a good college student,” Quintanar said. “She was a social worker at a hospital. She had gone to school for five years and got her Master’s and also had two kids, who live with us now.”

Quintanar said his favorite memory with his sister was during Thanksgiving.

“We would always play Apples to Apples with my family. We would always cheat together and swap cards so that one of us could win,” Quintanar said.

The date June 13 is also the birthday of his father, Marco Quintanar.

“[My father] is a blue-collar man, hardworking and provides for his family,” Quintanar said. “He’s always there for us. My favorite memory was when he would coach me for baseball.”

Jaylen Jasper - Men’s Volleyball

Jasper said he technically has a biological child in the world.

“Right after I turned 21, I was asked for my sperm by a couple that could not have a child on their own,” Jasper said. “In a direct donation to one couple, I donated, and I wanted to get something to symbolize that.”

In order to represent the life he helped create, Jasper said he chose a manta ray.

“Ever since [the donation] manta rays are my favorite animal, and they give birth to one or two pups at a time,” Jasper said. “This was one of the closest things I could get to sperm cell, without it being obvious.”

For Jasper, he said the tattoo is also a reminder that his donation may have long-lasting effects.

“I did put it in the contract that the child is allowed to reach out to me,” Jasper said. “It is a reminder that one day I will meet a little me. I am excited for it, also kind of scared, but I think it will be an amazing day. I can feel it already.”

The couple paid Jasper a sum of \$25,000, Jasper said.

“Tattoos were the first thing I got. I bought myself a nice designer wallet, I got my dogs, I made some updates to my car,” Jasper said. “I completely changed my wardrobe — which was an identity shift. It really gave me a chance of financial responsibility.”

Alongside the manta ray, Jasper wears a handful of tattoos from different aspects of his life.

“I got a palm tree once I realized California is where I want to be. I got Stanford tattooed after I graduated. I got a tattoo of Maryland where I am from, I got a tattoo of Waves for when we won the MSPF tournament and I got my dog tags,” Jasper said.

Jasper said he also is not done yet.

“My younger brother got a heart transplant right after he started high school, and he had a huge scar down his chest. I was thinking about getting white ink, something that looks similar because that is something he is self-conscious about,” Jasper said as he pointed to his chest.

Isabel Montoya - Women’s Basketball

Saint Jude is known for his association with lost causes. The ruler of Edessa was given a painful disease, according to Catholic News Agency. The disease was seen to be incurable until Saint Jude put his hands on Abgar, instantly healing him.

“You can get a painting and have it on your house somewhere, but being able to put something permanent on your body is showing beauty.”

Travis Reynolds
Junior

Montoya said she got a tattoo of Saint Jude for her father during her first year of college.

“My dad had a rough childhood. He had abandonment



Photos provided by sources

Six Pepperdine athletes from five different sports show off their tattoos. These tattoos represent everything from words to live by to family members who have died.

TOP LEFT: Matt Quintanar; TOP MIDDLE: Hunter Jansen; TOP RIGHT: Jaylen Jasper
BOTTOM LEFT: Taylor Rath; BOTTOM MIDDLE: Travis Reynolds; BOTTOM RIGHT: Isabel Montoya

stuff going on,” Montoya said. “He thought [his name] was a covenant for him that he is a lost cause, and I wear him on my skin everyday, so when people ask about him, he gets recognized that he is not abandoned.”

Montoya said her father Jude is especially meaningful to her.

“My dad didn’t know much about basketball, but when I told him I wanted to play, he started studying it 24/7,” Montoya said. “He probably knows more than me because he studies it so much. To me, that means the world.”

Beyond paying homage to her father, Montoya said she has tattoos for all those she knows who have died.

“I have three tattoos for multiple friends that have passed away. It is a cool deal when people ask about them; it is like they are still alive. I get to tell their story,” Montoya said.

Montoya said the deaths she has experienced in life have also led her to get a tattoo for herself.

“I have a Día De Los Muertos skull on the back of my leg that is mostly for me,” Montoya said. “I have been around death so much; the skull celebrates my establishment and the deaths, so they are not negative.”

Travis Reynolds - Water Polo

The Polynesian-American actor Dwayne “the Rock” Johnson and the importance of family inspired Reynolds to get his tattoo.

“Ever since I saw the Rock when I was little, I thought [a tribal tattoo] was the sickest thing ever,” Reynolds said. “I love the Polynesian culture and how rooted in family it is. That is close to my own beliefs. I love my family — family is a big part of my life.”

Reynolds said he highlighted three of those symbols on his tribal tattoo.

“I have the Celtic Trinity be-

cause faith is very important to me,” Reynolds said. “I have the Helm of Awe, which is the symbol of warrior and protection because I have always been the defender of my family and my friends. I recently got Oden’s Raven, which is the watcher of everything.”

Reynolds said the most important aspect of his tattoo is family.

“The thing about my family which I love is that, before we are there for us, we are there for other people. Even if we are going through things, we would rather help someone else than help ourselves,” Reynolds said. “That is what I have always loved about how my parents raised me. Having that symbol of my family and that little story of me on myself is awesome.”

Taylor Rath - Women’s Soccer

Kaizen is a Japanese concept for self-improvement that focuses on the ideas of avoiding complacency and looking for ways to improve your situation, according to The True Japan.

For Rath, she said this is an idea she tries to live by.

“Every time I look down at my arm, it’s a reminder that it’s just me versus me,” Rath said. “I’m just incrementally getting one percent better than yesterday, and that is what is going to lead to excellence.”

Rath said self-improvement proved to be vital as she came back from a discoid radial lateral meniscus tear.

“Following physical therapy, doctors and everything that I am asked is the reason I came back at the time I did,” Rath said. “If I focus on myself, if I didn’t stay in the gym every day, I would not be cleared right now. I know that hard work always pays off.”

On her left arm, Rath showcases the words “perspective” and “gratitude” in black ink.

“Being told I have an interesting perspective — and I

have a great perspective — it was like, this is a sign,” Rath said.

Rath said that part of her perspective on life is gratitude.

“I have gratitude on my arm because it is not only a reminder to be thankful but also a reminder to practice being thankful and reminding other people how grateful we are to even have the opportunity to go to Pepperdine,” Rath said.

Hunter Jansen - Baseball

After his uncle died in 2020, Jansen said he got a tattoo of his uncle’s initials and the cross on his bicep. He also got a tattoo of the day his uncle died on his wrist.

Jansen’s uncle Justin played a major role in his life, Jansen said.

“He was the best. He walked in the room, and the room lit up with excitement and laughter. He was a funny guy and a great guy, and he was like a second dad,” Jansen said.

Jansen said most of his favorite memories were whenever his uncle would come watch him play.

“He would always support me around baseball games. He would have loved to see me at Pepperdine,” Jansen said. “It’s a three and a half, four-hour drive, but he would have made it to every single game, probably all of our away games too.”

In addition to watching him play, Jansen said his uncle would have also loved to see the other tattoos he has.

“I have a joker that is a wild card and supposed to bring good luck, I have an ace of spades that is supposed to bring ambition, power and help me push through things, and a king of hearts, which is supposed to bring good vibes,” Jansen said. “[Justin] would have loved to see them on me.”

alexander.clarke@pepperdine.



SPORTS

Pepp Baseball swings for improvement

Tony Gleason
Sports Assistant

Pepperdine Baseball's season begins Feb. 17, with a three-game series against Boston College at Eddy D. Field Stadium in Malibu. Multiple members of this year's team said they are looking to use their experience and depth to build on and improve from their past couple of seasons.

After going 24-26 in the 2022 season, players and coaches have said the Waves expect to be more competitive in 2023 due to the growth of returning players and impact of newcomers.

"The staff's really well-rounded; our lineup's got a lot of good returning bats and incoming freshmen," senior pitcher Shane Telfer said. "I'm just excited to see what we do when we put it all together when the season starts."

Schedule

In 2022, Pepperdine started off the season with a three-game sweep of Villanova. This year, Head Coach Rick Hirtensteiner said the Waves are looking to repeat their opening weekend success — mainly focusing on performing well to help build for the future.

"We're just trying to play well and play better than them," Hirtensteiner said. "We wanna win all three, but if you play well, even if you lose one or lose two, if you play well, it really bodes for the future."

Nine of Pepperdine's first 15 games will be played at home at Eddy D. Field. Senior catcher and infielder Ryan Johnson said he is excited to start off the year with many games at home. The team loves playing at home since it eliminates the difficulties that come with playing on the road, Johnson said.

"It's hard to have to get on a plane, and travel, and get up early, practice late at night and time zone changes," Johnson said.

After playing Boston College, Pepperdine will head to UCLA to play the Bruins. When the Waves went to UCLA last year, then-sophomore shortstop John Peck hit a go-ahead grand slam in the top of the ninth, and the Waves won 7-5.

"One that sticks out in my mind was when we beat UCLA early on," Telfer said. "John [Peck's] game-winning home run was a pretty exciting moment."



Design by Betsy Burrow



File photo by Mary Elisabeth | Abroad Correspondent

Graduate student outfielder Mike Malinchak steps up to bat in a game against the University of the Pacific on the weekend of March 25, at Eddy D. Field Stadium. Pepperdine outscored Pacific in this series 18-10.

Roster

Hirtensteiner said he has high expectations for Peck. In 2022, Peck earned All-WCC first team honors and led the team in many offensive stats, according to Pepperdine Athletics. Hirtensteiner said Peck is a super athletic shortstop that makes brilliant plays up the middle and, despite hitting in the .360's, he could have hit .400 with how hard he was hitting the ball.

Hirtensteiner said he expects three returners to play a big role in the season: Johnson, who brings power in the lineup and versatility in the field, graduate infielder Greg Mehlhaff, who will be hitting in the middle of the lineup and senior outfielder Grant Schoen, who despite battling injuries in his first three years, was performing well in the fall.

Hirtensteiner said two newcomers he expects to see significant playing time are two transfer students — Lincoln Orellana, junior outfielder and first baseman, who transferred from American River College.

"In the fall [Orellana] hit extremely well with some power and was pretty versatile on defense," Hirtensteiner said. "He has the chance to be a mainstay in the lineup and hit in the middle of the lineup."

The other transfer student is sophomore pitcher Tommy Scavone.

Scavone transferred from Cal State East Bay and was recovering from injury during the fall but since being healthy has looked great on the mound, Hirtensteiner said.

"He's healthy now, and he's been pitching in our intersquad games," Hirtensteiner said. "He's been pitching really well and has the potential to be a weekend starter."

Johnson said another pitcher expected to play significant role this season is Telfer.

"Shane Telfer will be throwing on Friday's for us most likely," Johnson said. "Last year he didn't start out pitching a lot, but then, he ended up starting at the end of the year and did really well, and he'll do good for us again this year."

In 36.2 innings last season, Telfer led the Waves pitching staff with a 2.45. He additionally earned WCC pitcher of the week for the week of May 16, after he pitched seven shutout innings with ten strikeouts against LMU.

Looking Ahead

After their first 15 games, Pepperdine will begin playing teams from the West Coast Conference. Johnson said out of all teams in the WCC, he's especially eager to play the University of San Diego because of the rivalry between these two teams.

"We always just want to beat them,"

Johnson said. "You talk about LMU being right down PCH; we have a little rivalry with them, but it's different for USD. It's a different type of game, and it makes it more fun."

With how competitive the West Coast Conference can be, Hirtensteiner said any team can be in contention for the WCC title.

"In any given year in the WCC, any team can rise up and challenge," Hirtensteiner said.

Johnson said one of the Waves' biggest strengths is the depth the team has in the lineup and on the mound, which is important, as it keeps the starters on their toes to perform to the best of their ability.

"We're really deep in the lineup," Johnson said. "We have three guys coming off the bench that can play. We have a bunch of pitchers that can pitch for us if somebody goes down. If nobody's getting hurt, it keeps our starters better because they know they have that guy behind him pushing him."

Hirtensteiner said the team's pitching depth improvement will be crucial to their success, as having elite arms in the rotation can help carry a team.

"It really helps when you have elite arms in your starting rotation," Hirtensteiner said. "If you have a few elite arms, it can carry you a long way. I think our arms are closer to being that. We just have to wait to see how they perform."

With the season approaching, Telfer said, and with how unpredictable baseball can be, the Waves need to keep fighting until the very end, no matter the given situation.

"I think, mainly, we need to never count ourselves out," Telfer said. "Baseball is crazy; college baseball, every game is a dogfight. Anything can happen until the end. Any series is ours to win, any game, no matter what the situation is. We can take control, and we can win."

As for Johnson, he said his approach to the new season is to take it slowly and focus on each day without worrying about the end product too soon.

"Don't look to the end too soon," Johnson said. "Focus on the pitch by pitch, day by day. If you put it all together, by the end, it will be a good year."

With the combination of three fifth years, along with multiple veterans and the nine freshmen, Hirtensteiner said this team is a good mix of different ages.

"It's a good mix of old and young," Hirtensteiner said. "Hopefully, those older guys can bring these young guys along, and develop and become a really good team."

anthony.gleason@pepperdine.edu