Opinion

A Letter from the ASuop President

Grant Kirkpatrick
ASuop President

Hello Pacificans! My name is Grant Kirkpatrick, and I am currently serving as the President of the Associated Students of the University of the Pacific (ASuop). My primary responsibility as President is to serve as an advocate on behalf of students to the administration, staff, and faculty of the University. In this role, I feel it is important to keep the student body informed about the issues that face our University and what I have been doing to address these issues. As I reflect on the issues that have been discussed across campus there are a few that stand out as the most pervasive and significant. In my opinion, the largest obstacles we face moving forward are an ever-increasing tuition rate and a broken system of governance at our University.

Tuition at Pacific has been an issue for quite a while. Since 2002, tuition has doubled and has far exceeded the rate of inflation in the same time period. There is no question that it has become near impossible to attend our University without financial aid unless you come from a family with significant financial means. We are not alone; many similar private colleges have increased their tuition at a similar pace. These continuous increases have hindered our ability to take advantage of the specialized education we were promised, such as experiential learning opportunities (internships, research, project work, and so on) which are often unpaid. Less money in the pockets of students means that we have less time to work for free, which is often the reality with internships. Furthermore, additional financial stress makes it more difficult for students to participate in organizations that require dues and to attend events that charge for entrance. As a representative of students, I did my best to convince the administrators to reduce the tuition increase, but I was unable to convince the Institutional Priorities Committee (the budget committee) to recommend a lower increase. Instead, the committee approved a recommendation to increase tuition by 3.9%, but it is up to the President to determine what the recommendation to the

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Natalia Gevara
Opinion Editor

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, many students cannot wait to go home and eat a bountiful meal with their families and friends. For many people around the world, however, and even some students here at Pacific, a Thanksgiving feast is no guarantee.

To bring attention to food insecurity that occurs throughout the globe, the Council of Social Entrepreneurs Club put on its 6th annual Hunger Banquet on November 7th at the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House. The event was interactive, with those in attendance having their meal and where they sat determined by the luck of draw. Participants would pull a card out of a bowl, assigning them a role of a person from a

PC: Natalia Gevara

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Pacific Hunger Banquet Highlights

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more or less affluent country. Some of those in attendance would wind up at a well decorated dining table, eating an elegant meal, along with dessert. Others would wind up on the floor, eating a plate of beans and rice. The draw was meant to make those participating have a better understanding of food insecurity, and how we do not choose where we wind up in life.

One of the speakers included Pacific alumna Liz Thompson '82, who discussed how food insecurity affects students on our own campus. Thompson defined food insecurity as “lack of access to reasonably affordable nutritious food in reasonable amounts.” Thompson discussed how she had met students who had to decide between eating breakfast or buying a textbook — and found that many had a difficult time focusing in class due to lack of nutrition.

Thompson helps run the food pantry available at Cowell Wellness Center, which provides one bag of groceries per week to any Pacific student facing food insecurity. Another speaker was Pacific professor Bill Herrin, who went on to highlight many facts about global hunger that Americans aren’t typically aware of. Herrin discussed his experiences in Uganda, stating that “poverty reaches out and touches you.” He also put food insecurity into historical context, discussing how it has been centuries since the globe has had a food shortage, yet so many people go without food every single day.

The Hunger Banquet aimed to put food insecurity into perspective, and highlight the fact that it does not discriminate; the organizers most assuredly. All proceeds were donated to Second Harvest Food Bank of San Joaquin, Stanislaus Counties, and to the Pacific food pantry.

Unusually, some attendees experienced fine dinning.

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PC: Natalie Gevara

Unusually, some attendees experienced fine dinning.

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 Theta Alphi Phi Prepares for Performance of "Legally Blonde"

Scarlett Green
News Editor

On Friday, November 17th, Pacific's very own Theta Alpha Phi will be presenting its new musical, Legally Blonde. The musical will be showcasing the main character, Elle Woods (Josephine Kraemer, Music Performance '18), as she hilariously responds to social issues while on the path to graduate law school. The musical will be presented in the Long Theater with the first show beginning at 11:59 p.m.

Legally Blonde is directed by Maya Sritharan, Theatre Arts '18. Sritharan describes herself as an ambitious student who feels that she is capable of meeting the challenge of directing such a big production. Although this is the first show that she has directed independently, she remains truly dedicated to the task and believes that the show will ultimately be a success due to the hard work and commitment of all the students involved.

"This show means a great deal to me, as directing is something I want to pursue in the far future," Sritharan said. "To pinpoint what I have enjoyed most about this experience is hard. It's everything, honestly. I have enjoyed every moment, and my cast is so wonderful to work with. I love them."

Sritharan also describes how finding availability to rehearse posed a challenge because of the fact that the cast was composed of students of diverse majors who had vastly different schedules. However, Sritharan and her stage manager Joey Tan, Music Industry Studies and Business Administration '20, worked for hours to coordinate a practice schedule, which ultimately allowed them to help create the masterpiece that we will view tomorrow.

Legally Blonde's iconic Elle Woods will be embodied by Josephine Kraemer. When asked in what ways she can relate to her character, Kraemer explained that her character's struggle to appreciate herself without the approval of others is similar to that of her own.

"Elle Woods is resilient in conquering obstacles that stand in her way, and she really comes into her own when she learns to accept herself and recognize her own worth," Kraemer said. "I can see a part of myself reflected in that transformation—and I'm sure so will everyone else who watches the performance."

Elle Woods' male counterpart, Emmett Forrest, will be played by Chris Chan, Media X with a Theatre Arts concentration '21. Chan makes his debut tomorrow night as one of the major roles in Legally Blonde as only a freshman.

Although he at first encountered a few bumps in the road when attempting to belt out notes in some of the more difficult musical numbers, he explained that he was able to push past these obstacles through lots of practice. When asked how he felt he could relate to his character, Chan said, "I feel that me and him are very similar in that we are both kind-hearted, determined, and a little awkward... both of us [are] willing to help others and bring success to other people's lives."

You can watch Chris Chan, Josephine Kraemer, and the rest of the cast members as they work together to present Legally Blonde this weekend. Tickets can be purchased for $5.00 online or for $7.00 at the door. The Pacifican encourages students, staff and alumni to come support their fellow Tigers on the 17th (11:59 p.m.), 18th (8 p.m.), and 19th (5 p.m.) as they showcase their talents in an entertaining musical that all can enjoy!

Students Showcase Musical Talent at Brickyard Series

Amaris Woo
Copy Editor

On certain Thursdays, musical artists perform at The Lair for The Brickyard Series. Last Thursday, November 9th, the band The Honey Toads and singer/songwriter Gabriel Ojeda stunned the crowd with their musical prowess.

Gabriel Ojeda, Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing and Music Management '20, performed for the first hour. He accompanied his voice with his guitar-playing as he sang some covers and two of his original songs.

It was his first official performance at the University, and he had a blast singing in front of his fellow peers.

"Usually I perform in front of people who I don't know very well," Ojeda explained. "This time, I performed in front of a lot of my friends and fellow classmates."

When asked if he had any advice for aspiring singers, he humbly stated that he considered himself to still be an aspiring artist, but also gave useful tips.

"I would strongly recommend just going out and playing very often so you can experience more shows and learn from your experience," Ojeda said. "Especially in the beginning, there will be a lot of mistakes but as you keep performing and practicing you'll get better and better and your confidence will grow."

Ojeda also noted the importance of taking care of one's voice. He advises warming up one's voice before singing and drinking plenty of water.

Above all, Ojeda stated that the most important factor is to challenge yourself. "Always try to become better than you are, and work on your voice, guitar skills, piano skills, or whatever your instrument is!"

The Honey Toads performed for the second half of the show. Considered a Bay Area indie rock band, the group consists of four members: bassist Joe DeMars, Music Industry Studies '18, guitarist Jack Hogan, drummer Dominic Bergamini and vocalist Nick Cafiero (who also plays electric ukulele). While DeMars is a student at Pacific, the rest of the members are his good friends from Petaluma, California. They also performed a mix of covers and original pieces.

Gabriel Ojeda '20, opened November 9th's Brickyard series show.
Grant Kirkpatrick (left) pictured with ASuop Vice President, Caroline (right)

Letter from ASuop President
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The general consensus amongst critics and Marvel fans alike is that the Thor movies have all been somewhat underwhelming. The first one had heart and adventure but we stayed on Earth too long. The second one had unbalanced and often forced humor and a terrible villain. Despite this there has been a lot of hype surrounding its third installment, “Thor: Ragnarok.”

This time Thor teams up with the long absent Bruce Banner, Loki and Valkyrie to take down the evil goddess of death, Hela. There’s also this prophecy about Ragnarok promising an end to Asgard that they keep mentioning throughout the movie to remind you why it’s called “Thor: Ragnarok.”

Taika Waititi directs and stars alongside the respective reprisals of Chris Hemsworth and Tom Hiddleston. The film also stars Tessa Thompson as a single mention of Students. The largest group at Pacific, and the group that foots the bill, is not explicitly included in the governance of Pacific by any official policy. A common view I have heard from administrators regarding student involvement is that “your seat at the table is a privilege.” I find myself fundamentally opposed to this philosophy. Our seat at the table should not be considered a privilege, luxury, or gesture of goodwill. Rather, it should be considered an absolute necessity and basic expectation, if deeply rooted in our institutional values. Such values as student-centered, diversity and inclusion, and integrity and accountability do not live within our University so long as students are not given a right to represent themselves. We are the ones paying into this university, and we deserve to be treated as investors into the institution.

It would appear that the University believes the extent of shared governance is allowing interested parties the opportunity to be included in the discussion of issues, but not to determine the course of the solutions. In the status quo, our participation is at best an opportunity to make a case for students, and at worst a way for the University to claim that students consented to their agenda. In either case, the current situation is unacceptable.

So, what can we do? We can organize and let the administration know how we feel about these endless tuition increases. In recent years, our student body has been increasingly accommodating—students have been shouldering ever-increasing hardship while demanding little in return. We can angrily curse the administration in closed quarters all we like, but at the end of the day, students are not stepping up and publicly taking a stand. How can we expect the administrators to understand how we feel if we don’t let them know? From their perspective, numerous opportunities are afforded for students to give feedback in the form of email blasts, town halls, and office hours, yet we continually don’t provide it. Decisions are made by those who show up, and it’s time for us to start showing up. It’s time for us to voice our grievances during President Eibeck’s office hours and the administration’s town halls on tuition. It’s time for us to start filling the email inboxes of various decision-makers and a terrible villain. Despite this there has been a lot of hype surrounding its third installment, “Thor: Ragnarok.”

Now it’s deployed into Thor’s movie and we get a lot of character breaking moments that ultimately weigh the film down or feel out of place. The film has some good laughs here and there but every time I thought it was going somewhere interesting it quickly delved away from it, especially with its villain. Cate Blanchett does her best to finally give us another good Marvel villain but she isn’t given enough; there’s a lot of interesting layers to peel with her and Thor but they are quickly ignored. The story follows this same pattern.

It’s the same Marvel formula of good versus evil, and the title villain shows up towards the end. This is not a bad thing, per se, it just doesn’t bring anything new to the table. There’s a lot of moments where we could question things about our heroes and have some internal conflict but instead we get character-breaking jokes. There are a few emotional moments in the film that ultimately fall flat either due to the lack of build-up or are downplayed by jokes. Some of the jokes feel all too familiar and forced and don’t land.

I know a lot of Marvel movies have humor in them but those films’ humor were in line with their characters. The film really needed to have some confidence and take itself more seriously. It felt like a very safe movie for the studio and just average. I didn’t feel much as
"Thor: Ragnaork" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I watched this film, I just felt moderately entertained.

The stuff that entertained me was good for the most part. The action scenes were fun and exciting and Jeff Goldblum brings a terrific comedic performance as the Grandmaster. He brought the level of comedy that the film needed because it’s clearly established and level with his character. Every time we left his garbage planet and went back to Hela and the main plot, I just wanted to go back. The main story is uninteresting and the only character with a complete arc is Karl Urban’s who always is. Everyone else’s arc is introduced then never given enough time in the third act nor in its intense yet underwhelming resolution. Tessa Thompson does give this film a little more resonance and some of the better moments. The movie is never bad, it’s just extremely average.

In the end, “Thor: Ragnarok” is the best Marvel movie because it’s just another Marvel movie. None of them are anything spectacular; granted, some stand out more than others, but even so. Marvel has given us tons to explore only they have to run out of steam at some point. There’s only so much you can do with the same good formula. This time they played it safe and gave us another movie to sit back, relax, and kill two hours while being worth the price of admission at the same time.

Despite my criticisms I’d still recommend it as a fun movie to watch with friends. There’s not a whole lot wrong with the Marvel formula, they just don’t take risks every time.

The Weinstein Effect and its Role in Rape Culture

Natalia Gevara
Opinion Editor

It might be difficult to not notice the number of articles circulating through the news concerning powerful Hollywood men being accused of sexually assaulting and harassing women - and in some cases, men - in the entertainment industry.

It began in October 2017, when dozens of women began to come forward to accuse American film executive Harvey Weinstein of sexually assaulting, harassing, or raping them. With the dozens of women accusing Harvey Weinstein, many others have felt emboldened to call out their accusers in what has been called the “Weinstein Effect.”

The accusations have ranged from harassment to rape, and many of the victims state being as young as 15 when it occurred. The accused include Ben Affleck, Louis CK, Dustin Hoffman, Kevin Spacey, Ed Westwick, and many more.

Along with many women accusing these men of assault, the hashtag #MeToo went viral on Twitter, bringing awareness to the astounding number of women who have been victims of sexual assault in their lifetime.

But underneath these headlines of accusations, are many people blaming the victims who have come forward.

“Why didn’t they come forward _ years ago?” “Why now?” “They’re only doing this for attention.”

What these people don’t understand is that their attitudes is what contributes to the rape culture that is prevalent within our society, their victim blaming is what makes those hurt so afraid to come forward.

Victims don’t come forward because they’re scared. They’re ashamed. They have a difficult time admitting what happened to them to themselves, much less to anybody else. For those in the entertainment industry, they were threatened if they dared come forward. They were told their careers would be over, that no one would believe them. It’s a disgusting abuse of power on behalf of these men, and something needs to be done about it.

The Weinstein effect has not been limited to Hollywood, as many politicians have been accused as well, including former president George HW Bush and politician Roy Moore.

The worst part is that even when rapists are taken to court, they spend little time in prison. This makes coming forward even more difficult, when you already know that your rapist might not even be punished.

Instead of blaming the victims for what happened, we need to change our attitude towards rape and sexual assault. These men had the power to assault their victims without any punishment, and it shouldn’t ever happen again.

There is a domino effect being taken place here, as women don’t feel as scared to come forward with their stories when they know that they’re not alone. Additionally, there is a great deal of frustration happening. Past accusations towards Woody Allen and Roman Polanski have done no harm to their careers as they’re still allowed to make movies. The President of the United States has been accused of harassment and assault multiple times, but he is still in office. Powerful men believe they can do what they want to others free of consequence, and it needs to stop.

It’s time for rapists to be held accountable. As a society, we need to stop excusing misogynistic comments, no matter how small they might seem. Offensive comments towards women is what supports the rape culture plaguing our society, and by calling it out, we demonstrate how it’s not okay.
Staff Spotlight: Police Officer Ray Esparza

Zachary Withrow
Co-Editor-in-Chief

University of the Pacific is a beautiful campus full of bright and hardworking people. In this installment of The Pacifcian's Staff Spotlight series, we spoke to one of the people who helps protect everything we love about the University, Pacific Police Officer Ray Esparza.

Officer Esparza is no stranger to fighting crime and serving his community. After a three year stint in the U.S. Army Officer Esparza spent 26 years with the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department. In 2015, he joined Pacific's Police Department, where he learned a "new kind of law enforcement."

"It's not what I knew at the Sheriff's Office. It's mostly about protecting the people on campus, not going out and chasing bad guys like I used to," Esparza said. "You have to have a different mindset. It's about helping the campus community, not necessarily looking for bad stuff all the time."

Officer Ray Esparza (right) and his proud father smile in the UC. PC: Ray Esparaza

Esparza has adapted quickly during his two years on campus. Along with his regular rounds across the campus, he is currently assigned the buildings in the South Quad for his officer liaison. Esparza walks through Jessie Ballantyne, Casa Jackson, Wemyss, and Ritter, where he answers questions and makes sure those who are in the buildings are supposed to be there.

Esparza said he most often responds to reports of suspicious persons on campus.

"A lot of times people are just cutting through campus. Other times, it's people looking for a target of opportunity," he said. "Pacific students are just like any other people; they leave stuff lying around, or they leave their backpacks in their cars. So we try to shoo those suspicious people off campus."

He also regularly conducts traffic enforcement, and his weekends usually consist of breaking up parties, as one might expect.

"Pacific students like to be college students and have fun. They have parties, and the neighbors get upset because, well, they're college students," Esparza said. "So we have to go break those up. It's usually not a big deal; they're good kids."

When Esparza is not on the job, he loves spending time with his two children, who both play sports. He enjoys attending their practices and games. He also enjoys doing housework, like mowing the lawn and cooking.

When asked what advice he had for those who have interactions with police, Esparza said, "You will get out of it what you put into it."

"If you are respectful, we will be respectful. We are not there to harass you," he explained. "If we stop you, it is just because it's part of our job; we are trying to provide money for our families."

Career Resource Center Gives Professional Tips at Etiquette Dinner

Scarlett Green
News Editor

On November 7th at 5 p.m. sharp, well-dressed students filed into Grace Covell's Banquet Hall for a delicious dinner and a night of crucial lessons in networking and dining room protocol.

Entering the room, students encountered snack trays filled with appetizers such as fruit, crackers, cheeses and drinks. As students perused the food options, they were encouraged to mingle with one another as well as with staff and alumni also present.

Once all guests arrived, the session that ensued included a short presentation by a few young alumni who explained the fundamentals of networking. Students then received a sheet of paper describing the proper way to introduce oneself to employers as well as the basics of small talk.

Many students were surprised to find how much they could learn about such a seemingly commonsensical topic! Next, a short session began in which students were encouraged to put their newly acquired networking knowledge to use by chatting with alumni and faculty.

As students nervously recited their hastily prepared introductions, alumni received them with encouraging words of advice and proceeded to direct them to other friends or colleagues who may work in their desired fields. Many business cards were exchanged throughout this session and students entered the dining hall feeling well versed in professional encounters.

Once students reached their assigned tables, a presentation was given about employer expectations during business dinners. Faculty members from the Career Resource Center identified certain topics to avoid while making small talk with employers such as politics or religion, instead encouraging students to make use of topics such as job experiences, the weather, or other light topics.

Additionally, students learned about etiquette for following up on dinners with employers. For example, students were encouraged to write thank you notes or emails in order to leave the employer with a good impression.

Career Advising and Success specialist Shannon Edminster says that she thinks the most important lesson students should take away from the dinner is for students, "to learn about professionalism as a whole and to be able to understand how to act in situations that they may not have previously experienced."

In all, the Etiquette Dinner was successful in reaching Ms. Edminster's afore stated goal. Students left the dinner feeling optimistic about future interactions with employers and confident in their networking abilities. Some lessons can only be learned through experiences, however, the etiquette dinner provided a solid foundation for students who may have little to no experience with professional conferences or meetings.

Alumni and CRC faculty presented networking tips at the 2017 Etiquette Dinner. PC: Josh King
Thanksgiving Feast Just as Good with Friends

The long-running NBC hit "Friends" serves as a model for college students celebrating "Friendsgiving." Natalia Gevara
Opinion Editor

In the middle of a tumultuous Fall semester, Thanksgiving break is the saving grace that every college student looks forward to. Along with getting a break from cramming for exams, students also get to enjoy some family time on Thanksgiving day. But this holiday is for all the loved ones, including friends. "Friendsgiving" has become a popular trend within the past few years. But what exactly is it? And what are the benefits? Friendsgiving is exactly what it sounds like: Thanksgiving celebrations spent with friends. It includes everything of the traditional celebration, such as good food, games, and memorable moments.

There are many examples of Friendsgiving in popular culture, such as the beloved television series "Friends." The series is known for its Thanksgiving episodes every season, as the group of friends spend the holiday with each other instead of with family.

In that sense, Friendsgiving is a great alternative for those who do not enjoy spending holidays with their family. Instead of being forced to put up with people you might not get along with, people can spend it with those they have a good time with. Friendsgiving truly affirms the statement: "friends are the family you choose."

But Friendsgiving is also enjoyable for those who do like to spend time with their family, but still want to give thanks to their friends as well. Friendsgiving doesn't have to be celebrated on the actual day of Thanksgiving and is equally as memorable. And if you can't travel home for the holidays for whatever reason, Friendsgiving is a great celebration to assure that you won't be lonely.

For many people, friends are the ones who know you best. Since Thanksgiving is about showing gratitude to everyone in your life, Friendsgiving is definitely an appropriate celebration. So cook up a turkey, make some pumpkin pie and invite your closest friends over to show them what they mean to you.

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Men's Soccer

Tigers Win Season Finale, Prep for NCAA Tourney

Zachary Withrow
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Pacific men's soccer team defeated the Gonzaga Bulldogs on Saturday to close out regular season play with a 12-4-1 record. The Tigers' 3-1 win gives the team some momentum as they prepare to face Cal State Fullerton in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Saturday's match was dominated by the Tigers throughout, but one would not know it by looking at the halftime score. While the teams were locked at 0-0 at the break, Pacific took nine more shots than the Bulldogs through the first 45 minutes.

Pacific was kept in check thanks in part to Gonzaga goalkeeper Ben Willis. The redshirt junior performed admirably, recording five saves in the first half and eight overall.

Neither team scored until the 70th minute, when forward Collin Bettencourt '18 notched his first goal of the year off an assist by forward Anthony Orendain '20. Just a few minutes later, the Tigers made it 2-0 on a goal by forward Tariq Branche '20, which gave him a team-leading six on the season. Bettencourt was credited with the assist on the play.

Branche's sole possession of the team lead in goals did not last long, as Orendain scored his sixth of the year in the 78th minute; midfielder Camden Riley '19 collected the assist.

The Bulldogs would score their only goal in the 88th minute, when Isaiah Jackson put one past goalkeeper Curtis Goldsmith '18. It was too little, too late for Gonzaga, though, as Pacific emerged with the 3-1 victory.

Goldsmith finished his regular season with another win; he started every game for the Tigers this year and recorded 48 saves.

On Monday morning, the Tigers learned that they had been selected to participate in the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row, and this time the Tigers will host a game for the first time in program history.

The men will take on the Cal State Fullerton Titans (10-7-4) tonight at Knoles Field at 7 p.m., and the winner of the contest will move on to face No. 9-seeded Stanford.

Tigers Sweep Weekend, Look Ahead to GCC Championships

The Pacific men's water polo team picked up victories over two formidable opponents over the weekend. The Tigers took down No. 11 San Jose State 21-16 on Friday, then defeated No. 9 UC Davis 13-10 on Saturday.

Friday's win at San Jose State was highlighted by a sensational performance from Luke Pavillard '20, who scored seven goals in the contest. Ben Stevenson '18, also gave the Spartans trouble, as he scored four times to go along with three steals and two assists for Pacific. Engin Ege Colak '20 contributed three goals and two assists in the effort.

The Tigers had the game in hand early, and it took a great effort from the Spartans just to make the score respectable by the end of the match. The Tigers scored ten times before San Jose was able to get one ball past goalkeeper John Hedges '21. With the victory, the Tigers secured a perfect 5-0 record in the GCC for the season.

The Tigers returned home to Stockton on Saturday to take on the UC Davis Aggies. Once again, Pacific got off to a fast start, taking a 5-0 before the visitors got on the board. The closest the Aggies would get was a three-goal deficit in the third period before the Tigers struck and extended the lead.

UC Davis would score two goals in the last couple minutes of play to again shrink the lead to three, but it would not be enough. The Tigers emerged with a 13-10 win, snapping a ten-game win streak for the Aggies.

It was the usual suspects for the Tigers in the victory; Stevenson and Ege Colak each recorded four goals. Devon Thumwood '18, pitched in a goal, two assists and four steals, and Kale Ai '18 recorded two goals, three assists, and one steal.

The Tigers stand at 17-5 on the year. They now look forward to the Golden Coast Conference Championships, in which they secured the top seed. The men will start the tournament in UC Irvine, where they will take on a GCC opponent that is to be determined.