

# the PATHFINDER

Photo by Chloe Green

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# LC STATE GRADUATION



Photo by Chloe Green



Photo by Shaunasy Pashby



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# BEST OF LC SPORTS

Photos courtesy of Chloe Green





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Photo by Shaunasy Pashby





# 130 DAYS IN LEWSTON

## By Peer Ali

It was a crisp January evening when I first set foot in Lewiston, a mix of excitement and longing swirling within me after having just bid farewell to newfound friends from Pakistan after our immersive welcome workshop in Washington D.C. As I was stepping out from Pullman airport, Emily greeted me with a warm smile, holding a sign with my name, a beacon of welcome amidst the unfamiliarity of a new place. Little did I know that this small town would become the backdrop for some of the most enriching and heartfelt experiences of my life.

My journey began with Bryce and Julie Kammers, whose genuine kindness and hospitality instantly made me feel at home. From sharing stories over dinner to exploring the local market in search of halal food, they went above and beyond to ensure my comfort and well-being. In those first few days, as Julie served me with love and care, and Bryce shared stories of life in Lewiston, I realized that I had found not just hosts, but family away from home.

As I settled into life at Lewis-Clark State College, I found some beautiful souls, each weaving their unique threads into the fabric of my experience. From Ethan,

my roommate and gaming enthusiast, to Mohamed, Tasnim, Issra, Ines, Ksenia, Ana, Mercy, Peter, Lina, Taylin, Kayleigh, Piet, Ami, Jacy and many more, their diverse backgrounds enriched our conversations and experiences, each interaction was a reminder of the beauty of human connection. In the quiet corners of my heart, there exist a silent love, tender and unspoken. Like the gentle glow of a candle in the darkness, its presence brought warmth and comfort to my soul.

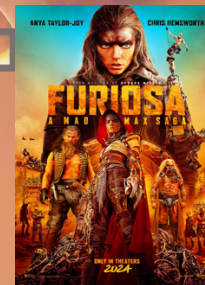
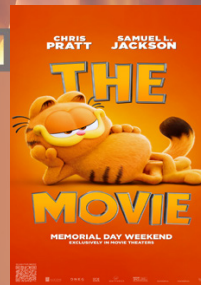
Also I had the privilege of meeting these beautiful souls including Tooba, Zarqa, Mohsin, Aqdas, Hira, Atif, and Waqar. Together, we enjoyed road trips covering California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and Florida, creating memories that would last a lifetime. In the midst of our travels, I couldn't shake the feeling that there was something profoundly human about our shared experiences. As Ralph Emerson famously said, "Life is a journey, not a destination." And in the warmth of our friendships and the richness of our experiences, I found the true essence of that journey. Being an exchange student from Pakistan, my time at LCSC was a truly transformative experience that enriched my life in countless ways. Providing

Photos courtesy of Peer Ali

with an exceptional education and a welcoming community that fostered meaningful connections with both American and international students. I am immensely thankful for the memories made and the friendships formed during my semester there. Lewis-Clark State College truly made a great difference between who I used to be and who I am today, and it will forever hold a special place in my heart, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to this institution and its remarkable staff including my professors namely Gene Straughan, Seth Bradshaw, Angela Wartel, and Joseph M. Proud, and LC State International Office especially Rebecca and Emily for their invaluable contributions to my life.



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# SKY LIGHTS UP WITH THE BRIGHT FUTURE FOR LC GRADS

By Shaunasy Pashby

On Friday night, only hours after LC grads made their way across the state and headed into their futures. Idaho, as well as much of the world, saw a spectacular. A particularly strong solar phenomenon-caused the night sky to light up with pinks, greys, purples, and blue. The Northern Lights, also know as Aurora Borealis. lit up the night sky all through the weekend brighter than idaho has seen in more than twenty years. This certianly marks a bright future on LC's 2024 Graduates.

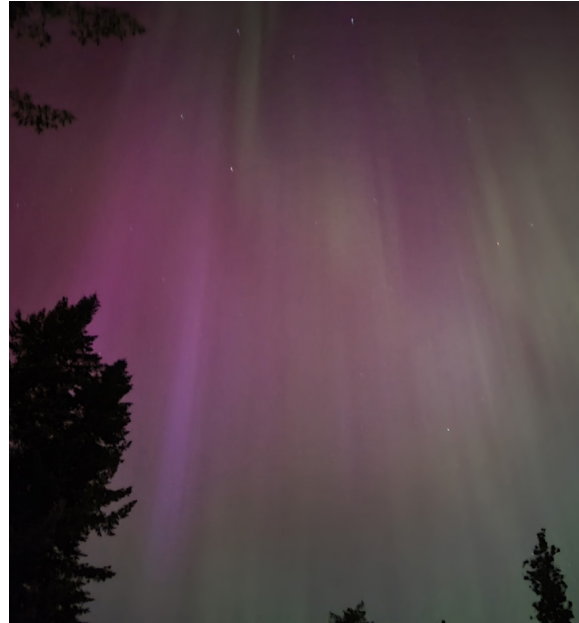


Photo by Shaunasy Pashby



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Photo by Shaunasy Pashby



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# LC STATE HOLDS COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY AT OROFINO PRISON

Photos and story courtesy of LC State Office of Marketing and Communication

This unique event was held outside at the facility's recreation yard and was attended by 56 other students in the program; over 20 college administrators, faculty and staff; as well as six family members of the graduates.

Austin Sherper and Scott White took a combination of online and in-person classes en route to earning associate of arts degrees in liberal arts through LC State's Humanities Division. The graduates join Bryan Middleton, who graduated in the fall, as LC State's first three ICIO graduates.

"We are proud of this program and proud of these graduates," said LC State President Cynthia Pemberton, who presided over the ceremony. "LC State has a history of finding innovative ways to deliver meaningful education options and opportunities to students no matter where they are or what challenges they face. We're a small college that continues to do big things and not just in Lewiston, but in Orofino, Coeur d'Alene, online, the region, and throughout Idaho." The college served 62 individuals in Orofino with both online and in-person classes in the fall and 53 in the spring. With the success, the college is expanding its prison education program to both Pocatello and Boise.

"The program is educationally quite intense," said Sherper. "It was nice to be in

person with some classes and have the professors there and have that college experience. It really makes a difference. You really feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself"

"I'm really proud of Austin, and also really appreciative of the opportunity because I think it's made such a big difference for him and can be life-changing for so many others," said Dawn Sherper, Austin's mother. "We think it's great that LC has started this and we really hope that it's going to keep going and make a big difference for so many more."

Monday's event in Orofino was a full commencement ceremony inclusive of LC State's administrative team, regalia, and all the pomp and circumstance one might expect at a graduation celebration. The attendance of family members proved especially meaningful for the graduates.

"What LC is doing for these inmates here at the facility is unbelievable," said White while holding back tears. "It gives us an opportunity to make our family and friends proud that we don't usually have. It's very emotional."

"We're really appreciative of the college for what they offer to these guys and to the facility itself," said Daniel White, Scott's father. "Everyone is outstanding and they're helping my son make progress in his life – making a bad situation good. We're

very thankful."

According to research by the RAND nonprofit and nonpartisan research organization, providing education in prison has proven to reduce recidivism rates and is associated with higher employment rates. A 2018 RAND study found that incarcerated individuals who participated in correctional education were 48 percent less likely to return to prison within three years than incarcerated individuals who did not participate in any correctional education program. RAND estimates that for every dollar invested in correctional education programs, \$4 to \$5 are saved on three-year re-incarceration costs.

"In the same vein as providing education opportunities to all regardless of location, we want to ensure that all students have the same opportunity to participate in commencement," LC State Provost Fred Chilson said. "It is a monumental achievement and we want to celebrate their hard work in achieving life-changing goals."

"Today was epic. It was a great ceremony," ICIO Deputy Warden Kent Shriver said.

"It was really neat for these guys to do this because it isn't something they'd normally get to do. I think it will really help motivate the other students to keep going and get their degree."



Austin Sherper



Scott White





# CDA LC STATE COMMENCEMENT

By Dana Parsons

“The LC State Coeur d’Alene Center recognized its’ Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 graduates at the Coeur d’Alene Graduation Reception on May 3, 2024. President Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, Sr. Vice President and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Andrew Hanson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Fred Chilson and several other members of the Lewiston campus participated in the celebration. The reception followed the CDA Senior Symposium, where Business, Humanities, and Social Work students presented their senior research. Graduating students and their families participated in a balloon arch photo booth, hors d’oeuvres, conversation with faculty and staff, and an award recognition. LC State honored Trent Derrick as the 2024 Alumnus of the Year. Recently graduated Business student, Marshall Trede, was named as the CDA Student of the Year.”



Photos courtesy of LC State CDA Student Service



# Word on the Street

"What was the best part of the year?"

"Graudating."

-Tina Anderson



"Accomplishing my goals. Finishing my nursing program and doing what I really wanted for a long time."

-Fridah Kumenda

"Being able to finish my last semester online."

-Darren Byers



"Graduating."

-Brian Hernandez

"Graduating."

-Anna Steffens



"We did a super fun anthro assignment. We learned about ancient people from our state."

-Lauren Averhart

"Getting a lot of different opportunities. I got an opportunity to be a long term sub for Sacajawea Middle School. Hanging out with friends and passing all the tests. And seeing the days tick down to the last."

-Andrew Booth



"I would say that the best part of this year was the last day of class, not merely because it marked the end, but because it provided a platform to celebrate our collective achievements and glimpse into the exciting paths ahead for my classmates and myself. Showing that all the hard work had paid off."

-Erin Shubert

"Getting to be involved with all my friends and the campus community. I'm going to miss everything I had and have done here very very much."

-Lizeth Serecero



"It's hard to say, with so much happening, but the best part of my year had to have been the end of year research symposium. I gave a short talk on my air research. It's amazing to see all the work all the students have done, and getting to speak at my final LC symposium was very special."

-Anika Busz



# SINE DIE 2024, A TRANSITION FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

By Xander McDowell

Sine Die is the annual event where newly elected Student Government members are sworn in, and acknowledged as official members of ASLCSC. It also sees the departure of members who either elected not to run for office again, or were unable to do so due to graduating from LCSC. For those who leave the council, Sine Die is their last time sitting in on a meeting, and one of their last moments as a representative of the student body. Departing members include, David Morrell (Vice President), Neto Garcia Rosales (Pro Tempore, 2024 graduate), Daphne Buckland (Justice Senator, 2024 graduate), Kae'la Brown (Media Relations Senator), Drew Terteling (CTE Senator), Peter Zepeda (Committee Senator, 2024 graduate), and Matthew Belanger (Senator).

These members made significant contributions to ASLCSC, and LC State as a whole. David Morrell was hired as a general senator later in the academic year, but quickly made the jump to Vice President as he demonstrated a passion for leadership and learning opportunities. Neto Garcia Rosales worked with the Warrior Pantry to help students in need of Thanksgiving food receive all the ingredients needed for a full feast. Daphne Buckland helped the Council with their project in installing feminine hygiene product dispensers in women's bathrooms across the campus, and played a major role in conducting elections. Kae'la Brown became an award-winning senator, earn-

ing the Social Media Campaign award for her work during LC's Homecoming. Drew Terteling represented the CTE group with flying colors, and was a big help during ASLCSC's Winter Craft Fair. Peter Zepeda assisted Neto in participating in a discussion with the Faculty Senate Committee on student-use of AI and why professors should find a way to teach students how to use it. Matthew Belanger was a reliable team player throughout the semester, always lending a helping hand for every ASLCSC event. The team will dearly be missed, but their impact on LC State will never be forgotten.

The new members now look to continue the great work of the previous council while also pursuing their own goals and aspirations. The team is led by President Xander McDowell and Vice President Inga Salsbury. MacCoy Reiber will take over as the new CTE Senator. The remaining senators, Nallely Leon, Esteffany Alvarado, Isaac Ortega, Kolby Rau, Piet Kongstatt and Rayne Martinez, will take over the remaining positions, with specialized senator roles to be determined at a later date.

The meeting moved along swiftly, with the previous council taking care of some quick to-do list items, before moving to swear in the next council. Sine Die began once Kae'la Brown swore in returning President, Xander McDowell. Once deemed official to continue his role as President, McDowell

then swore in Salsbury as VP. The remaining council members were jointly sworn in, and the new era of ASLCSC will now begin!

Following Sine Die the next iteration of ASLCSC has already begun their work to create an interactive space for all LC students, including those who would be graduating. Both old and new councils helped to set up the Grad BBQ event, direct it, and take it down. They then joined forces once more to assist with Graduation, lending out LC themed cookies to the graduates who began their status as LC alumni. Graduation marked the official end of duties for the old council, and the beginning of a great year for the newly elected members. Continue following the Pathfinder and ASLCSC to remain up-to-date on what comes next from the new iteration of student government.



ASLCSC President and VP



New ASLCSC



Retiring ASLCSC

Photos by Shaunasy Pashby



# the PATHFINDER

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## Editors Goodbye

We had an amazing year with you all and look forwards to seeing returning students in the fall. To our graduates we say good luck on your future adventures.

- The Pathfinder Team

