

LMU

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Lions Fans,

As we reflect on the 2024-25 year, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible achievements and historic moments that defined our year on the Bluff. Your support has been instrumental in driving our success, and we are excited to share the highlights and our vision for the future.

This year, we celebrated our highest finish ever in the Directors' Cup, placing 7th among Division I-AAA schools and 94th overall—marking LMU's first top ten and top hundred finish. Our relentless dedication and hard work of our student-athletes, coaches, and support staff brought us closer to our goal of becoming the top Division I-AAA program in the country.

Fall was especially memorable, starting with our volleyball team capturing the WCC title for the first time since 1996. Their NCAA tournament run—our 16th NCAA appearance— included a victory over Washington in the first round before falling to Stanford. We congratulate Coach Trent Kersten, who was named WCC Coach of the Year. His success earned him a new role as Head Coach at Oregon. We're excited about the future of the program with Associate Head Coach Kolby O'Donnell taking over as our new Head Coach.

Our beach volleyball team continued its dominance, winning its sixth consecutive WCC title and earning the #4 overall seed in the NCAA tournament. At the NCAA tournament, they defeated four-time defending champ USC on Saturday morning and then beat #1 overall seed UCLA that same afternoon before falling 3-2 in the national championship match the next day against TCU. Head Coach John Mayer received the AVCA National Coach of the Year award—the first National Coach of the Year honor for any LMU coach in school history.

Women's water polo also made history, winning the Golden Coast Conference for the second straight year and securing an NCAA bid for the

first time since 2012. Coach Ikaika Aki, named Conference Coach of the Year, has propelled the program forward in just his third year, including 16 consecutive GCC wins in the regular season dating back to 2023.

Looking ahead, we are optimistic about the future of college athletics here at LMU. Our proactive strategies—such as the ROAR LMU initiative and the nearly completed Gersten West project, which will transform the student-athlete experience and position us for continued success.

Our department remains committed to our four pillars: Recruit, Teach, Win, and Graduate. We are dedicated to recruiting top talent, nurturing our student-athletes holistically, competing at the highest levels nationally, and preparing our graduates to make a meaningful impact in the world.

Thank you for your generous support and your belief in our mission. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence and create a future we can all be proud of.

Please enjoy the highlights of this incredible year.

GO LIONS!

RTWG,

Craig Pintens | Athletic Director



2024-25



ATHLETICS

OUR NEWEST

HEAD COACHES

DAVID CARRASCO ▶
MEN'S WATER POLO



◀ **KOLBY O'DONNELL**
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



3.75

HIGHEST TEAM CUMULATIVE
GPA FOR 2024-25
(BEACH VOLLEYBALL)

95%
GSR

3.391

DEPARTMENT GPA
FOR 2024-25

IN THE
CLASSROOM

34%

OF STUDENT-ATHLETES
ON FALL 2024 DEAN'S LIST

38%

OF STUDENT-ATHLETES
ON SPRING 2025 DEAN'S LIST

77.2%

OF STUDENT-ATHLETES HAVE A
CUMULATIVE GPA ABOVE 3.0



IN THE

COMMUNITY



▲ FIRE RELIEF DRIVE

In collaboration with the Westchester YMCA, LMU Athletics organized a donation drive to support individuals affected by the Los Angeles fires. Athletic teams participated in a friendly competition to collect the most in-demand supplies, with the Softball team earning top honors for their outstanding contributions.

◀ BEACH CLEAN-UP

More than 65 student-athletes, coaches, and staff members proudly represented LMU Athletics in a community beach cleanup in Playa Del Rey, conducted in partnership with Friends of the Jungle. This collaborative effort exemplified LMU's commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement.





WEST COAST CONFERENCE SAAC



Myron “MJ” Amey, Jr (Men’s Basketball) and Katie Power (Women’s Cross Country) took part in the WCC Leadership Summit in June 2025. Over the course of three days, the Lions represented LMU at the conference’s event.

FEED THE HUNGRY ▶

LMU teams partnered with Campus Ministry to participate in a university program called Feed the Hungry, which provides weekly lunches to a local, at-risk youth center in Venice.



◀ TEAM IMPACT ▶

LMU teams proudly partnered with Team IMPACT to welcome young athletes living with serious illnesses as official members of their teams. Throughout the year, new teammates actively participated in practices, team events, and game days—building meaningful connections with student-athletes and becoming an integral part of the team environment.



BLACK STUDENT ATHLETE SUMMIT ▼

Student-Athletes Myron “MJ” Amey, Jr (Men’s Basketball), Allison Clarke (Women’s Basketball), Ky Mani Dade (Men’s Soccer), Savannah Hooks (Softball), and Jasmine Sofowora (Softball) attended this summer’s Black Student Athlete Summit in Chicago; an annual, national conference that brings together 2,000 student-athletes, administrators, doctoral students, and industry professionals for an immersive 4-day conference enriching Black student-athletes’ understanding of self- and community identity, expression, and actualization.



NEW-LOOK IGGY

SEES VICTORY AT GERSTEN

The new look was inspired by LMU's new brand identity, along with extensive historical research and creative input from students, staff, alumni, former and current Iggy. He now better represents the sense of pride in the LMU community.

Iggy the Lion embodies the ideals of courage, community, and curiosity that define the institution. Officially adopted as LMU's mascot in 1923, Iggy's name honors St. Ignatius of Loyola, reflecting a lineage deeply rooted in the university's Jesuit and Marymount heritage. While rich in tradition, the story of Iggy is also interwoven with a sense of wonder and imagination that inspires reflection and pride.

Iggy's new look was revealed on January 16, during halftime of the men's basketball game against Santa Clara with a video and a bobblehead giveaway. The Lions defense then roared and clawed its way to an upset win.



ATHLETICS ADVANCEMENT

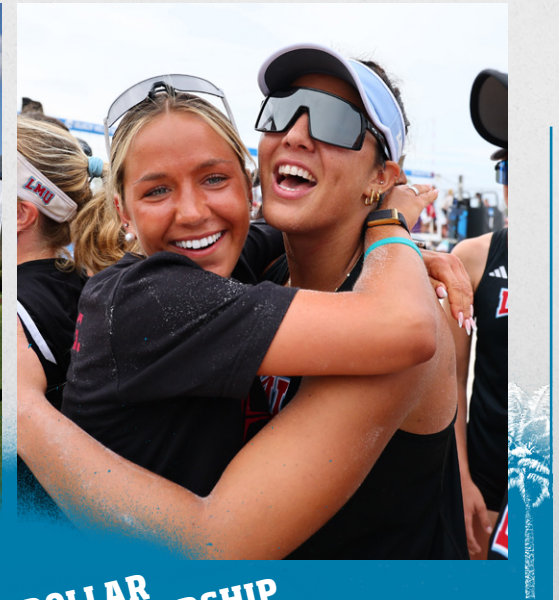
FUNDRAISING IN 2024-25

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of donors, alumni, community members, and fans, LMU Athletics continues to positively impact the lives of student-athletes through the funds raised during the 2024-25 academic year.

Among the year's many highlights was a transformational gift in support of LMU Women's Water Polo - the establishment of the first-ever million-dollar endowed scholarship in department history - and the remarkable success of LMU's Day of Giving. The one-day campaign raised \$459,342 from 754 unique donors for LMU Athletics. As part of the day, challenge

gifts were awarded to the top three men's and women's teams that raised the most funds in a single day. Leading the way were Men's Golf with \$88,997 and Women's Beach Volleyball with \$66,815.

These achievements reflect a strong and growing community of support, ensuring continued excellence and opportunity for LMU student-athletes.



1st
MILLION-DOLLAR
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
IN DEPARTMENT
HISTORY

2024 - 25

EVENTS

FOURTH ANNUAL TIP OFF EVENT

LMU President Timothy Law Snyder, Ph.D., Men's Basketball Head Coach Stan Johnson, and Women's Basketball Head Coach Aarika Hughes welcomed a select group of LMU supporters and fans to the Fourth Annual Tip-Off Event, held at Candela La Brea on October 27. Guests had the chance to connect with players and coaches from both teams as excitement built for the 2024-25 season.

BASEBALL POKER NIGHT

Baseball Head Coach Donegal Fergus and his staff welcomed alumni, parents, and friends of the program to a special gathering at Cielo Farms on February 1, generously supported by the Hirsh family. Guests enjoyed stunning views, connected with student-athletes, and participated in games—all in support of raising funds and enthusiasm for the program.



2025

DIRECTORS' CUP

LMU SETS NEW HIGH MARK WITH BEST EVER DIRECTORS' CUP FINISH

By advancing three teams to NCAA postseason tournaments, LMU Athletics has earned the school's highest finish in the annual LEARFIELD Directors' Cup Division I Final Standings. LMU Athletics secured a 94th-place finish overall and ranked 7th among NCAA Division I non-football schools. This is the first time that LMU has finished inside the top 100 overall and inside the top 10 among non-football schools.

The Lions accumulated a total of 200 points for the year, marking the fifth consecutive final standings (excluding the 2019–20 season, when

the Directors' Cup was not awarded) in which LMU has surpassed the 100-point threshold. Since the program's inception in 1993–94, LMU has reached this milestone seven times.

The LEARFIELD Directors' Cup is a collaborative initiative between the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and USA Today, designed to recognize broad-based athletic success. Points are awarded based on each institution's performance in NCAA Championship events.

7th
AMONG NCAA
DIVISION I
NON-FOOTBALL
SCHOOLS

WCC MIKE GILLERAN SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR MASSIMO OEDEKOVEN POMPONI | MEN'S SOCCER

Massimo Oedekoven Pomponi was key contributor during LMU's first NCAA Elite Eight appearance in program history during the 2023 season, posting shutouts against UCLA and James Madison in the NCAA Tournament. He finished the 2023 season with a 7-1-1 record against top-40 programs, earning West Coast Conference and National Goalkeeper of the Week honors during the campaign.

Pomponi was a member of LMU's Dean's list and a student-athlete scholar every semester. He also earned recognition as member of the Chi Alpha Omega honor society and the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society. He graduated summa cum laude, boasting a 3.9 cumulative grade point average with a degree in finance.

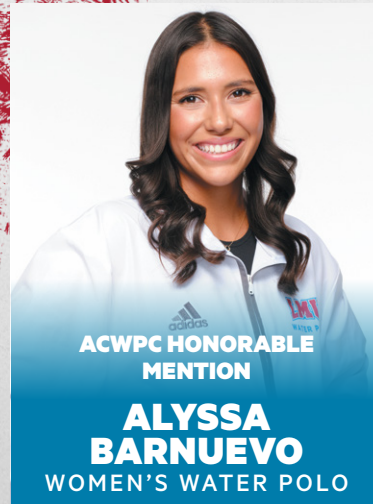
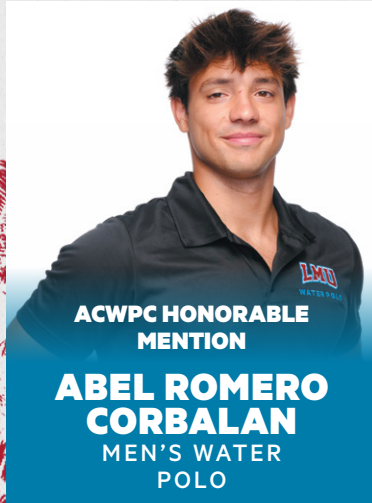
As part of his work in finance, Pomponi interned at Wells Fargo, FT Partners and Deloitte. He was a two-year leader of the Lion Club Fund. Pomponi also volunteered his time at the LA Food Bank the past four years.

STAFF ON NCAA SELECTION COMMITTEES
ASHLEY ARMSTRONG CHAIR | BEACH VOLLEYBALL



2024-25

ALL-AMERICANS



BEACH VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH & WCC CHAMPIONS

LMU Beach Volleyball finished the 2025 season as National Finalists, the furthest the program has ever gone. The Lions entered the championship day coming off a quarterfinal win over USC and a semifinal win over UCLA to earn a spot in the National Championship Match against 2-seed TCU.

LMU took the Horned Frogs to the final court, in the sport's biggest stage. Despite losing in a tiebreaker set of the clinching court, the Lions are just the second program in school history to play in a National Championship Game, joining the 2004 Women's Water Polo program. The 38 wins are a program record and John Mayer was named National Coach of the Year. The team also became the first in school history to win six consecutive WCC conference titles.



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

**WCC CHAMPIONS
AND NCAA SECOND ROUND**

Women's Volleyball returned to the postseason for the 16th time after winning their first West Coast Conference Title since 1996. The Lions advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament after defeating Washington in five sets in the opening round to earn 50 points in the Directors' Cup Standings. LMU posted a perfect 13-0 record at home and went 16-2 in the West Coast Conference, including sweeps of San Diego, Pepperdine, and Washington State.

Sam Hastings, Paige Flickinger, Mia Schafer, and Sophia Meyers were named to the All-Conference First Team. Hastings also claimed the title of WCC Libero of the Year, reaching a career milestone of over 1,000 digs this season. Schafer was named WCC Setter of the Year, achieving career milestones of more than 3,000 assists and 900 digs. Head coach Trent Kersten was honored as WCC Coach of the Year, becoming the first LMU women's volleyball coach to receive the award since Steve Stratos in 1996.



WOMEN'S WATER POLO

GCC CHAMPIONS AND NCAA QUARTERFINALS



The LMU Women's Water Polo team returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since the 2012 season. After completing a second-consecutive undefeated Golden Coast Conference regular season, the Lions hosted the 2025 GCC Tournament as the top seed. LMU won three games in three days at Burns Aquatics Center to claim the program's first GCC Tournament title since 2015.

GCC Coach of the Year Ikaika Aki has now won 16 consecutive GCC regular season games and has not lost in conference play since his first



season as Head Coach. In total, Aki has posted an incredible 20-1 record in conference, winning over 95 percent of his league games. Aki helped mentor the back-to-back GCC Player of the Year in Ruth Arino Ruiz this season, as well as a total of four All-Conference selections including three First Team All-GCC members. In the NCAA Tournament Quarterfinals, Arino Ruiz totaled six points with her five goals, assist, and steal, and finished her career as the program's all-time assists leader with 222 and recorded the second most career goals in school history with 293.



MEN'S

BASKETBALL

Playing in Mexico, LMU defeated Belmont and Wyoming to win the 2024 Cancun Challenge, the team's second Multi-Team Event championship in three years under Head Coach Stan Johnson. In the opening win over Belmont, LMU put together a complete game to crush the 8-time NCAA Tournament participants. The Lions grabbed a season-high 44 rebounds and held the Bruins to a tough shooting night from both the field (36.5 percent) and from three (31.0 percent). The 2024 Cancun Challenge Riviera Division championship was not decided until the final minutes of play against Wyoming. The Lions led by 13 at halftime, trailed by 10 in the second half, and closed the game on a 19-6 run over the final 5:31 to win the MTE, 73-70. The Lions benefitted from an 18-3 advantage on fast break points and finished shooting 49.1 percent from the field. LMU also tied a season-best mark shooting 81.8 percent (9-for-11) from the free throw line. With their performances, Jevon Porter was named Riviera Division MVP and Will Johnston was named to the All-Tournament Team.



MEN'S

GOLF

In the WCC Championship semifinal, Cade Anderson stormed back from three down on the front nine to earn the first point for the Lions. Alejandro Alonso powered through to finish the job against J.P. Odland, winning 2&1 with a great up and down on the 8th hole. With Alvaro Muller and Emil Nielsen winning their matches for the Broncos, it would come down to a winner take all from the final match between Trevor Algysa and Calder Overfelt of Santa Clara. Algysa would take a 1 up lead to the final hole on No. 9 and sink a putt that clinched the victory while sending the crowd into a frenzy.

Following the conference tournament, Cade Anderson and Mason Snyder were selected as individuals to participate in the NCAA Regionals. Anderson closed out his final round of play in impressive fashion, recording nine birdies to jump 20 positions into the top-10 of the NCAA Bremerton Regional leaderboard. Anderson's front nine consisted of seven birdies alone, before the senior added birdies on 13 and 18 to finish his tournament at 3-under. Anderson finished as the top individual and in a three-way tie for ninth overall with his 75-73-65—213. Anderson's 16 birdies throughout the three rounds were the fourth most of the entire field and placed him only behind the tournament's top three finishers, Utah's Braxton Watts; South Carolina's Frankie Harris, and Florida's Matthew Kress.

BASEBALL

Beau Ankeney is the new home run king after launching 22 out of the park. The team tied the single-season home run record after blasting 82 over the fence during the course of the year. The Lions also impressed at the WCC Tournament, setting a tournament record with 11 long balls. Ankeney, along with Robbie Ayers and Nate Savoie were named to the All-Conference First Team. Savoie was named WCC Freshman of the Year after Savoie batting in conference games .327 with nine home runs, 26 RBIs and 10 doubles.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Point Guard Naudia Evans led the WCC and ranked 11th in the nation with 5.9 assists per game. Evans also led the Lions in scoring with 15.9 points per game.



MEN'S & WOMEN'S TENNIS

Both tennis programs qualified for the 2025 WCC Championships in San Diego following conference play. On the men's side, Youssef Sadek and Sebastian Nothhaft were one of three doubles teams in the nation to defeat San Diego's top pair and were named to the Doubles All-Conference First Team while finishing ranked #83. For the women, Stefania Rogozinska-Dzik was rewarded for her impressive season with a First Team selection to the Singles All-Conference Team.



WOMEN'S

CROSS COUNTRY



The women's cross country team continued to be led by Hayden Washington, who finished 37th at the WCC Championships in the fall. The team as a whole finished 9th after a last leg push by Tessa Kline and Ava Boyd to overtake Pepperdine on the final 2K. Washington added a pair of top-five finishes at the Waves Invite in Malibu and the WCC Preview hosted by Pacific.

WOMEN'S

SOCCER



Kylie Dobbs stands alone as the single-season scoring champion as her 11 goals broke a 31-year record. Jennessa Groves etched her name in the record books after concluding three successful seasons on the Bluff as she is tied for 6th all-time with 16 goals. The Lions marked their highest win total since 2016, which included an impressive 3-0 win over #13 Pepperdine on the road. Head coach Chris Chamides took home WCC Coach of the Year honors after a dramatic three-season turnaround in which he took a winless team to compete for the WCC Championship on the final day of the season.

SOFTBALL

Smith Field was sold out as the Lions hosted #2 Oklahoma in February. The game had the largest crowd in LMU softball history. Following the season, Izzy Jamgotchian headlined the All-Conference award selections, earning a spot on the All-WCC First Team for the third consecutive year. The veteran slugger led the conference in home runs with 15, while also tallying 46 hits and 38 RBIs. Mika Chong, Sakora Harvell, Justine Lambert, and Jasmine Sofowora were all named to the All-WCC Second Team.





CELEBRATING BILLY BEAN

Billy Bean was an All-American, a two-time draftee, a College World Series participant, and one of the most decorated athletes in the history of LMU Athletics. He earned a taste of the big leagues and played professionally in Japan, yet at the end of the day, his legacy goes well beyond the baseball diamond.

Who he was off the field supersedes any accolades he may have collected during his time on the Bluff. Billy became a larger-than-life figure by championing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the MLB and around the world as MLB's Vice President of DEI. That job was extremely important to a man who was one of the first openly gay professional athletes and the impact he had on so many lives will never be fully quantified.

THE LIONS HONORED BILLY'S FAMILY AND TEAMMATES ON THE FIELD FOR A PREGAME CEREMONY ON APRIL 19.



Timothy Law Snyder, Ph.D., served as the 16th president of Loyola Marymount University from June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2025, marking a transformative era in the university's history. A dedicated educator, mathematician, and leader in Jesuit higher education, Dr. Snyder championed academic excellence, inclusion, and innovation. During his presidency, LMU won 16 conference championships, played in 19 NCAA Tournaments, and saw 51 student-athletes named All-Americans and two named Academic All-Americans. Thank you, President Snyder, for your enthusiasm, commitment, and support of LMU Athletics.

An aerial photograph of a tropical city, likely Los Angeles, viewed from a high vantage point. The image is heavily stylized with a blue gradient overlay. In the foreground, several palm trees are visible, some in sharp focus and others blurred. The city's urban landscape, including roads and buildings, stretches out towards the ocean. The coastline is visible on the right side of the image. The letters "LMU" are prominently displayed in the lower center of the image.

LMU