



2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT



A LETTER FROM THE AD

Dear Lions Fans,

I ended this letter in last year's annual report with the phrase, "We will always strive to raise the bar and set it higher." We continue to make good on this promise. Set the bar higher is an oft-used cliché in the colloquium of various goals and achievements. It originated in pole vaulting, as the higher the bar, the more complex the jump, and the more skilled the athlete needs to be. As I wrap up my fifth year as Athletic Director, we continue to achieve, but there is always another bar to vault over.

As college athletics continues to transform and evolve, the spotlight of any athletic department will always be on revenue-generating sports. Men's Basketball Head Coach Stan Johnson has had the two most successful years since 1990 in just three years of coaching. This past season featured wins at #6 Gonzaga, breaking their 75-game home winning streak, the highest-ranked win ever by an LMU team, and a win at home against #15 Saint Mary's. With a solid nucleus coming back and some great additions in recruiting, LMU men's basketball will break through soon into the NCAA tournament.

We had another successful year competitively, as we again finished in the top twenty of all Division I-AAA schools in the Learfield Directors' Cup. Our beach volleyball team has established itself as a national power, winning its fourth straight WCC championship and finishing fifth nationally for the third straight year. Our softball team won its second consecutive WCC Championship and advanced again to an NCAA Regional. We succeeded on the diamond in a big way this spring, as baseball won its first outright WCC championship in twenty-five years. We also returned to the NCAA tournament in women's indoor volleyball, receiving an at-large bid in the fall.

The WCC recognized us for all our success in several ways. We won the Men's All-Sports Award, which recognizes overall success in WCC men's sports, for the first time in our history. We finished second overall to BYU in the women's and overall standings. We had three coaches of the year in the WCC (John Mayer, Tairia Flowers, and Nathan Choate), and Noel Caliskan, a decorated student-athlete from men's soccer, received

the highest honor bestowed by the WCC in winning the Mike Gilleran Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

We continue to set the bar higher thanks to your support. We opened our new beach volleyball competition and practice courts on campus in March, which is the first on-campus competition facility in over fifteen years and provides a home for one of the best teams in the country. We also recently completed lights at our aquatics facility, allowing our water polo and swimming teams to practice and compete at night.

We had another banner fundraising year, which again eclipsed the \$5M annual mark. We have had our three best fundraising years ever in the past three years. We also had donors invest in our collective, MagisLions.com, which supports the NIL of our student-athletes and will allow us to continue to compete at a high level.

The LMU Athletic Department focuses on four pillars: Recruit, Teach, Win, and Graduate. We will recruit the best in all 20 NCAA sports we compete in. We will teach in the university's mission of Cura Personalis, caring for our student-athletes minds, bodies, and spirits. We will win and compete nationally. We will graduate our student-athletes and prepare them to make an impact in creating the world we want to live in.

We have raised the bar; please enjoy the highlights of an incredible year, and know we will always strive to raise the bar and set it higher.

GO LIONS!

RTWG,



Craig Pintens | Athletic Director

NEWEST HEAD COACHES





ALLISON FOSTER

Director of Rowing &
Head Women's Coach



IKAIKA AKI

Women's Water Polo



TRENT KERSTEN

Women's Volleyball

IN THE CLASSROOM

3.384

Department GPA
for 2022-23

37.2%

of student-athletes on
the Fall 2022 Dean's List

40.9%

of student-athletes on
Spring 2023 Dean's List

81.5%

of student-athletes
have a cumulative
GPA above 3.0

94%

Teams over 3.0 Term
GPA in Spring 2023

ACADEMIC
ALL-AMERICAN
**DYLAN
SHOCKEY**
SOCCER

95%
GSR
GRADUATION
SUCCESS
RATE



BEACH CLEAN-UP

Student-athletes arranged a time to bring together multiple teams to clean up Toes Beach in Playa Del Rey. Toes Beach is a local hangout spot for LMU students.



FRIGHT NIGHT

SAAC members volunteered to sponsor a booth at LMU's Fright Night, an annual kid-friendly Halloween celebration in the Sunken Gardens. Kids stopped by to paint their best, or scariest, pumpkin and then take some LMU Athletics swag home with them.



SAAC TALENT SHOW

Talented individuals and groups representing all LMU teams came together on a spring evening to showcase talents with the winning team donating the over \$400 collected in admission ticket sales to a non-profit of their choice.

IN THE COMMUNITY



SAAC SWIM RELAYS

Returning this year after a three-year hiatus, the SAAC Swim Relays bring together multiple LMU teams, from both water and land-based sports, to participate in fun and surprisingly competitive relay races. The teams raced in a freestyle relay race as well as a tube relay.



LA FOOD BANK

Student-athletes donated their time on a Saturday morning to sort produce and pack boxes for Los Angeles residents.



CREEK CLEAN-UP

Student-athletes volunteered to clean up the banks of Ballona Creek near LMU and then cheered on the LMU Women's Rowing team in their senior day race vs. UCLA.

**Total # of
hours served:**

630.5

**Total # of student-athletes
at your institution:**

396

ATHLETICS ADVANCEMENT

FACILITIES UPGRADES



**LIONS
ATHLETIC
CENTER**



**SPORTS
MEDICINE
TRAINING
ROOM**



**TENNIS
CENTER**



**BURNS
AQUATIC
CENTER
LIGHTS**

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

In the spring, beach volleyball courts were opened on campus, featuring the Doud Family court, as one of three competition courts, and a warm-up court. This was the first new competition venue on LMU's campus since Smith Field in 2006 and has quickly become a tremendous addition to campus at its location between Loyola Boulevard and the Burns Recreation Center. The Lions went unbeaten at home in the first season on home sand this spring and finished the season fifth in the nation.



RECORD-BREAKING FUNDRAISING

LMU Athletics Once Again Celebrates Impactful Fundraising Year in 2022-23

Through continued support from donors, alumni, community members, and fans, LMU Athletics continues to make a difference in the lives of student-athletes with the funds raised during the 2022-23 school year. In total, more than **\$5.4 million** was raised for student-athletes to support scholarships, facility renovations, and competitive opportunities. This marks the second-highest fundraising year ever, with the three highest totals recorded in the past three years.

A highlight from last year was the momentous success of **LMU's Day of Giving**, which earned **\$612,448** from **1,178 unique donors** for LMU Athletics. Generous donors awarded challenge gifts to the top five men's and women's teams that earned the most dollars in one day. Earning the top spots were **men's rowing** with **\$70,200** and **softball** at **\$83,901**.



DIRECTORS' CUP

By virtue of sending three teams to the NCAA postseason tournament, LMU Athletics placed 131st overall and 17th among Division I – AAA schools in the final LEARFIELD Directors' Cup standings for the 2022-23 school year.

The Lions earned 132.50 total points on the year. This is the fourth consecutive final standings (no Directors' Cup awarded in 2019-20) where LMU has earned triple digit points. LMU has reached the 100-point plateau six times since scoring began in 1993-1994.

The LEARFIELD Directors' Cup was developed as a joint effort between the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and USA Today. Points are awarded based on each institution's finish in NCAA Championships.



#17

LMU Athletics has placed 17th in Division I-AAA Directors' Cup standings for the 2022-23 school year.

Staff on NCAA Selection Committees

ASHLEY ARMSTRONG

Beach Volleyball



THAD SATRE

Rowing



SECOND 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 invited a select group of LMU supporters and fans to join them for the Second Annual Tip Off Event at The California Club on Oct. 30. Attendees had the opportunity to meet and interact with players and coaches from both programs in the leadup to the 2022-23 season.



BASKETBALL HIGHLIGHTS

JAMAICA CLASSIC

Don't count these Lions out! LMU used an improbable 8-0 run over the final 1:20 of regulation to force overtime and eventually defeat Wake Forest in the Championship game of the 2022 Jamaica Classic, 77-75. Big shot after big shot came when the Lions needed it most. Chance Stephens hit seven threes in the title game to win Tournament MVP.



SPOKANE STUNNER

The game that put the nation on alert. LMU took down a top-10 opponent for the first time since 1961 and picked up the program's highest ranked win ever. The Lions snapped Gonzaga's 75-game home win streak, along with ending several other historical marks. Cam Shelton led the Lions with 27 points including hitting the game-winner down the stretch and Michael Graham recorded the game winning block to go along with his 10 rebounds.



STORM THE COURT!

In front of the home crowd, LMU secured a second top-15 win for the first time in school history. A 23-6 run in the first half made it a game again, and a 10-3 run in the final two minutes of regulation forced overtime. Cam Shelton took over down the stretch, making play after play, and finishing with his first 30+ point game as a Lion.



LION KINGS

A classic battle that featured both teams tied at the half, 17 lead changes, and 8 tie scores. LMU pulled away in the second half with stops on the defensive end and key baskets offensively. Defensively, the Lions held BYU to just two made threes on 13 attempts in what ended up being a five-point win.



ALL FINE IN THE DINE

The Lions entered the final game of the regular season needing the PCH Cup rivalry sweep in order to secure fourth place in the WCC. Mission Accomplished. For the first time since 2012, the Lions won two conference games against the Waves and left Malibu with not only a second-straight second half comeback, but Stan Johnson's second top-four finish over the last three years.



BASEBALL POKER NIGHT



SOFTBALL LEAD-OFF EVENT



LMU ALL-AMERICANS

MELANIE PAUL

Women's Beach Volleyball



VILHELMIINA PRIHTI

Women's Beach Volleyball



RUTH ARINO RUIZ

Women's Water Polo



MARIALENA SELETOPOULOU

Women's Water Polo



KARI GEISSBERGER

Women's Volleyball



DIEGO BARRERA

Baseball



CAM SHELTON

Men's Basketball



WCC Coaches of the Year



NATHAN CHOATE

Baseball



TAIRIA FLOWERS

Softball



JOHN MAYER

Women's Beach Volleyball

ATHLETIC SUCCESS

Awards



> WCC Men's All-Sport Award > Second in WCC Commissioner's Cup

> The Lions received the most points in the WCC men's all-sports standings, which combined with the second-most points in the women's all-sports standings, placed LMU second overall in the 2022-23 Commissioner's Cup Standings. The WCC Commissioner's Cup is an all-sports award presented at the end of each academic year to the league's top performing school in conference play and is based on a point system, reflecting the finish of each team in conference play.

> **Noel Caliskan** was named the WCC Male Mike Gilleran Scholar-Athlete of the Year after he concluded his four seasons with the LMU men's soccer program.

Men's Basketball 4th Place Finish



Men's Golf

- > WCC Individual Co-Champion – Riley Lewis
- > All-WCC - Riley Lewis
- > First Individual to advance to the NCAA Championship - Riley Lewis
- > CSC Academic All-District and PING West All-Region - Riley Lewis

Men's Soccer

- > Noel Caliskan selected in MLS SuperDraft
- > All-WCC (3 selections)
- > Noel Caliskan Named WCC Midfielder of the Year
- > Noel Caliskan Named WCC Male Mike Gilleran Scholar-Athlete of the Year
- > D1 Men's All-West Region Team (3 selections)





Women's Volleyball

- NCAA Tournament Selection
- AVCA Volleyball All-American - Kari Geissberger
- USA Volleyball Open Program - Kari Geissberger, Jackie Moore, and Sam Hastings

Baseball

- 2023 WCC Regular Season Champions
- All-WCC (9 selections)
- WCC Coach of the Year – Nathan Choate
- WCC Pitcher of the Year – Diego Barrera
- WCC Defensive Player of the Year – Cole Roberts
- Collegiate Baseball Second Team All-American - Diego Barrera
- Three MLB Draft Picks (Most in WCC) - Jared Thomas, Merrick Baldo, and Diego Barrera



Women's Tennis

- WCC Freshman of the Year: Anna Paradisi
- **All-WCC First Team Singles:**
Veronika Miroshnichenko
- All-WCC First Team Doubles: Veronika Miroshnichenko and Eva Marie Voracek
- LMU Final ITA Team Ranking: 44th
- Veronika Miroshnichenko and Eva Marie Voracek Final ITA Doubles Ranking: 23rd



Softball

- 2023 WCC Champions
- All-WCC (9 selections)
- WCC Coach of the Year – Tairia Flowers
- WCC Pitcher of the Year – Jenna Perez
- NCAA Tournament Appearance



Women's Beach Volleyball

- AVCA Beach Volleyball All-American (Melanie Paul and Vilhemiina Prihti)
- AVCA Top Flight Awards (Madi Firnett and Isabelle Tucker)
- WCC Coach of the Year – John Mayer
- WCC Pair of the Year – Melanie Paul and Vilhemiina Prihti
- WCC Defensive Player of the Year – Melanie Paul
- WCC Freshman of the Year – Chloe Hooker
- All-WCC (9 selections)
- AVCA Final Poll - 5th

LMU