

Voice

University of La Verne Magazine

Spring 2019







GENEROSITY BEYOND IMAGINATION

It was a night of munificence and merriment, with University of La Verne students the designated beneficiaries. On March 30, more than 600 Leo-loving boosters danced, dined, and joyfully outbid each other at the 2019 Scholarship Gala held at the Sheraton Fairplex. This year's event, themed Achieve Beyond Imagination, raised \$750,000 for University of La Verne students, half of whom are first-generation college students and nearly all of whom rely on financial aid.

Missed the merriment? It's not too late to visit createthefuture.laverne.edu to make your contribution.

Photos by William Vasta

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Leos in Leadership

Salvador Melendez. Candice Garcia-Rodrigo. Alex Villanueva.
These three Leos beat the odds in longshot races for public office.



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Reality TV is their platform; Old California homes, their passion. Meet Jessie '08 and Tina Rodriguez, hosts of the HGTV series *Vintage Flip*.



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Sea Average

For weeks she tallied fish in the Bering Sea. Now Professor Emily Cilli-Turner is sharing the mathematical spoils with her students.




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A Baja California street vendor dreamed of owning a bicycle cart. University of La Verne's Enactus volunteers gave him that—and much more.

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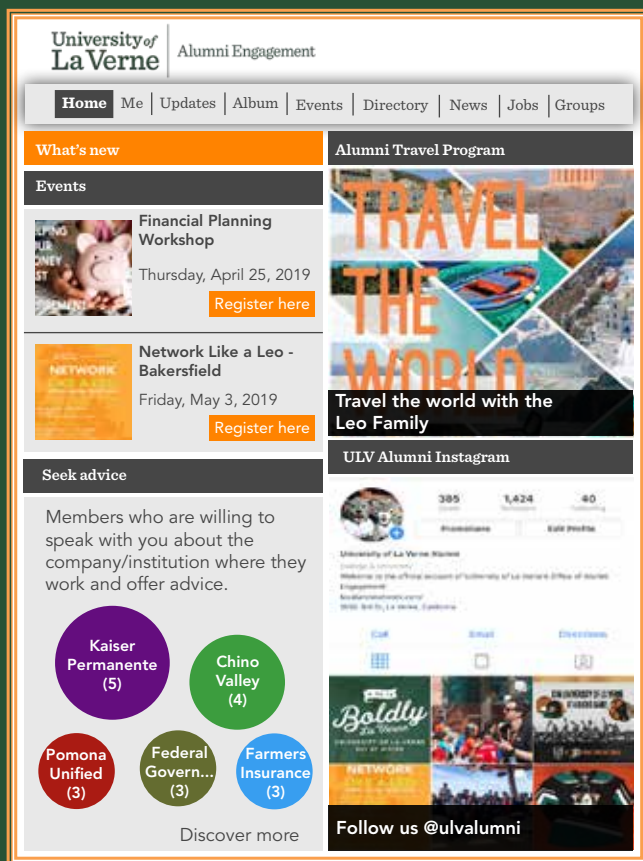
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Voice

University of La Verne Magazine
PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
VOL. 99 NO. 1 SPRING 2019

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



We all know the saying: “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” That is easier said than done. We face adversity every day, but the real challenge comes in how we rise to overcome obstacles.

At the University of La Verne, we encourage our students and staff to go above, around, or through all barriers to become leaders in their communities, to reimagine their professions, and to address the world’s most pressing challenges. Day after day, year after year, our Leos step up to answer the call.

This issue of *Voice* magazine honors that spirit and dedication.

Some of the change agents featured in the following pages are making their marks through public service. They include alumnus Alex Villanueva, DPA ’05, who won a historic election to become the new sheriff of Los Angeles County; alumna Candice Garcia-Rodrigo, JD ’06, MPA ’08, MS ’09, who is the first Latina to be elected court commissioner for Riverside County Superior Court; and Salvador Melendez, a second-year student in the College of Law, who won a seat on the Montebello City Council.

Others are pushing boundaries in art and science. Mathematics Professor Emily Cilli-Turner voyaged through the Bering Sea to participate in research on environmental sustainability. Phoebe Beasley, our artist-in-residence for the 2019 spring semester, embraces beauty, honesty, and diversity in her work, inspiring students also to express themselves.

And this year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the University of La Verne’s Regional and Online Campuses, which empower adult learners to achieve their educational dreams.

Everywhere I look across the University of La Verne’s 10 campuses and vast alumni network, I see dedication and hope. The next time you are faced with an obstacle or a hurdle, take a lesson from these inspirational Leos and persevere. Greatness awaits!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Devorah Lieberman".

Devorah Lieberman, PhD
President

WHAT'S NEW

Fast Facts

with Nancy Reyes, MEd '09, associate dean of learning, innovation, and teaching, and past director of the First Generation and Peer Mentoring Programs



Q What is the First Generation Scholars Program?

More than 40 percent of the University of La Verne's students are the first in their families to attend college. That means many don't have close relatives who can guide them through the college experience. The First Generation Scholars Program supports these students through workshops, parent involvement, and opportunities to become engaged on campus. We aim to provide a sense of belonging and foster a commitment for academic success. We're also a hub for professionals who volunteer to mentor the students through their journey at the university.

Q How has the program evolved recently?

The Office of First Generation and Peer Mentoring is currently developing a peer mentorship model that will launch in fall 2019. This model will allow us to tap into returning first-generation students who feel motivated to help first-generation newcomers thrive at the University of La Verne. By becoming peer mentors, these first-generation students can step into leadership roles and pay it forward. In addition, the program has incorporated a new parent-education component that equips families to support their students as they navigate college life.

Q What services or resources are most helpful to first-generation students?

Providing a strong network of support is something we do really well at University of La Verne, and it makes all the difference for our students. Through our rich programming, we are able to create opportunities to connect students with staff and faculty on campus who are really invested in their success.

Leo on the Street

Preston Parker '19

Former President of the Black Student Union



What barrier do you hope to see broken in your lifetime?

Men are taught not to emote, to suppress feelings, which can lead to depression, self-medication, or even suicide. I would like to see the barrier broken that says it is not OK—or "manly"—to pursue a healthy mental and emotional state for men, and more specifically, for men of color. We can create emergency hotlines and support groups. But the stigma itself, the way the community responds to mental health, and the expression of male emotions, needs to change.

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER // 18-20 // 2019

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My Perspective Fostering Excellence

"PEOPLE LIKE YOU DON'T GO TO COLLEGE."

The words still ring in my head from time to time. Whenever I face a challenge, I feel that small seed of self-doubt.

I was the seventh of nine children, and I entered the foster care system at birth. I was blessed to be fostered into the home of Cleopatra and D.C. White when I was just three days old. They legally adopted me at age 4.

Born in 1917 and 1919, respectively, D.C. and Cleo, both African American, had grown up in the south, where segregation prevented them from attending well-resourced schools. They understood the power of knowledge, and they worked diligently to provide me with a quality education. Because of their support and my hard work, I was an excellent student.

Sadly, my parents passed away before I completed high school, and I was emancipated at age 16. Despite this heartbreak, I had been given the tools necessary to persevere. When I met with my college advisor and she said to me, "People like you don't go to college," I ignored her.

I gathered my courage, leaned on my friends, and applied to UC Berkeley. I earned my bachelor's degree in psychology.

Young people tend to believe that they are powerless, and in that moment, taking in those words from my advisor, I did feel powerless. However, I was vigilant in understanding that the struggle for equality does not rest on the shoulders of a few talented individuals. Our strength and success often comes through collective advocacy and action.



In 2016, I was called to lead the transformation of the College of Education and Organizational Leadership into the LaFetra College of Education (LFCE). Collectively, we are a college of more than 10 academic programs, serving undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students across multiple campuses and educational sites. We are dedicated to equipping educators to champion social equity for youths, adults, and families in our communities.

Within three years, LFCE has re-envisioned teacher education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. We have incorporated best practices in reaching students and families held back by disability, racism, financial need, and health disparities. And we have confronted the complex obstacles that impede student academic success.

This spring, LFCE's Center for Educational Equity and Intercultural Research held its second research conference highlighting critical pedagogy. We also celebrated the 15th year of the Family Learning Conference, reaching more than 800 children and families. LFCE exists to provide students with broad access to high-impact learning, career readiness, and holistic support so that they can become influencers in their communities of practice. These accomplishments are not the work of an individual, but the outcome of an educational community working together to become a model in producing educators, leaders, and advocates.

People like us do go to college. And we take others by the hand along the way.

NEWS & NOTES



University of La Verne Recognized for Creating Education and Career Pathways

The University of La Verne received the 2019 Education Pioneer Award at the 8th Annual Challenge for Children Gala hosted by Inland Empire United Way. The university was recognized for creating education and career pathways for diverse and socioeconomically impacted communities seeking higher education. Sherri Mylott, vice president of University Advancement, accepted the award during the ceremony held at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center in Pomona.

Clinical Psychology Program Aces Reaccreditation

The Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program (PsyD) received a 10-year reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The accreditation process is intended to promote consistent quality and excellence in health service psychology education. The 10-year term is the highest and longest level of accreditation given by the association. Students in the PsyD program are trained to think critically, apply their knowledge diligently, and practice ethically and compassionately.



La Verne's Montana Ranch Renamed Bob and Mary Neher Field Station

The University of La Verne's research field station—Magpie Ranch in Montana—now bears the name of Professor Emeritus Bob Neher and his wife, Mary, who built the ranch 25 years ago. The 187-acre Bob and Mary Neher Field Station at Magpie Ranch offers students a place to conduct research in wildlife ecology, rangeland ecology, geology, and habitat restoration. Students also learn from helping out on the ranch.



Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding, and Community Engagement Opens Fall 2019

The University of La Verne's Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding, and Community Engagement is scheduled to open in fall 2019. The new center will provide resources and space for students to reflect, meditate, and engage in dialogue. Features include a large sacred space, three classrooms, a group prayer and meditation room, a yoga and quiet room, offices, a courtyard, and spaces for collaboration.



College of Law Leads in Diversity

The College of Law ranked in the top 15 in *preLaw Magazine's* Most Diverse Law Schools index for 2019. The publication evaluated law schools nationally based on the percentage of minority faculty and students in five racial groups. The College of Law ranked 14th nationally and 4th in California, earning an A+ for student and faculty diversity. The rankings appeared in the magazine's winter 2019 issue.



LaFetra College of Education Names New Endowed Chair

Kristan Venegas is the inaugural holder of the LaFetra College of Education Endowed Chair for Teaching, Education, and Excellence. Established through a generous donation from Anthony LaFetra, chief executive officer of Rain Bird and a university trustee, the endowment will support Venegas' ongoing research into financial aid availability in California for under-represented, low-income, and first-generation students.

University Rolls Out New Master's Degree in Data Analytics

Addressing a global demand for skilled professionals equipped to analyze and interpret data and set up measurement systems, the College of Business and Public Management has introduced its master's degree in data analytics. Based at the university's main campus in La Verne, the program offers two specializations: marketing analytics and supply-chain management analytics. SAS, a global leader in data analytics and programming certification, has endorsed the marketing analytics curriculum, and students will be awarded a joint certificate upon completion. Learn more at univ.lv/msda.

READERS CORNER

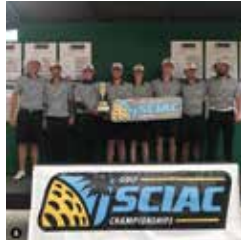
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Robert Carr, entrepreneur and founder of @giveback_ngo, addressed graduates of the LaFetra College of Education during winter commencement. Give Back provides financial & social support to students who've experienced life challenges. He was inspiring. @ULaVerne

@DRK_WHITESMITH



Meet Natalie Goss! She graduated from @ULaVerne in 2014 with a degree in art history. Currently, Natalie works in the Office of Alumni Engagement and recently helped launch Leo Connect, a networking site for alumni to attend events and find mentors. #KnowYourLeos #LeosForLife

@ULVCOMMS



Thank you @ULaVerne and @ULVAthletics for helping host #GirlsGotGame! As always a beautiful and inspirational event for our young female athletes!

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The Campaign for the
University of La Verne

A full-body photograph of a leopard standing on a white background, facing right. The leopard has a distinctive spotted pattern of dark brown and black spots on a tan-colored fur. Its tail is long and also features a spotted pattern, extending towards the bottom right of the frame. The leopard's head is turned slightly towards the viewer, showing its eyes and whiskers.

LEOS IN LEADER- SHIP

Three of University of La Verne's civic leaders proved a race is never over when you have passion, determination, and a fighting spirit to make a difference.

By Genesis Gonzalez
Photography by William Vasta



COURTING THE VOTE

College of Law student Salvador Melendez's message of hope and trust vaulted him to a seat on the Montebello City Council.

THE NOVEMBER ELECTION FOR CITY COUNCIL IN MONTEBELLO, CALIFORNIA, WAS A NAIL-BITER.

Ten candidates, including three incumbents, vied for three open seats, with voting so tight that Los Angeles County election officials needed three weeks to figure out who won.

When the final ballots were counted, and with a margin of less than 100 votes, an unlikely victor emerged. Salvador Melendez, 28, a student at the University of La Verne College of Law, came out on top, making him the youngest councilmember in the city's 98-year history.

Despite his young age, the Montebello native connected with his community by staying true to one guiding principle.

"I never promised anything that I knew I couldn't deliver," Melendez said.

Montebello is a Los Angeles suburb about eight miles east of downtown that is home to more than 63,000 people. Melendez announced his candidacy in March 2018, vowing to bring change to a city that has struggled financially.

During the campaign, he and fellow students from the College of Law knocked on more than 10,000 doors to encourage voter participation. Despite having one of the lowest fundraising campaigns, he quickly became a top contender when voters heard his message.

"I didn't want people to just see my age, but my love for the community," Melendez said. "There was an urgent need to rebuild and gain trust in the City of Montebello."

Reports from the California State Auditor in 2011 and 2018 criticized many of Montebello's fiscal practices. Melendez said his to-do list is topped by the need to make new hires, modify the city's budget, and increase revenue.

One of his biggest challenges in getting there will be building stronger communication with residents,



he said. He wants to help them understand that change is needed and it may come in many forms, including a sales tax increase.

"I've come to learn that many people tend to see an issue as black or white," Melendez said. "However, as I step into this new role and apply the knowledge I've learned thus far in my legal studies, the first thing to do is analyze the situation and identify where the opportunity lies. It's never a simple yes or no."

Melendez was sworn in on December 22 at Montebello City Hall. Under this new role, he is expected to serve a four-year term. Additionally, his peers recently voted Melendez as mayor pro tem for the City of Montebello. He will assume the role of mayor in their absence. This includes presiding over city council meetings and representing the city. He is expected to take on the role of mayor later this fall.

"My schedule just got a little busier, but I'll have to be strict on my schedule," Melendez said.

Although he'll still be young, he's up for new challenges that come his way.

"Don't ever let anyone tell you you're not ready," he said. "There is no right or wrong time to make a difference." 🐾

LEGALLY STRONG

As the first Latina court commissioner in Riverside County history, alumna Candice Garcia-Rodrigo sets a strong example for professional women and the community she serves.

THERE'S A LOT RIDING ON CANDICE GARCIA-RODRIGO'S SHOULDERS.

Parents vying for custody of their children in Riverside County's Family Law Court look to her to make fair, nuanced rulings. And women in the Inland Empire's Hispanic community look to her as an important role model.

Garcia-Rodrigo is court commissioner for the Riverside County Superior Court. Appointed in November, she's the first Latina to hold the post.

"The bench should represent the community it serves," Garcia-Rodrigo said. "Hispanics comprise more than 50 percent of the Inland Empire population, but only a small percentage are represented in the legal field. I am honored to be part of the change."

A court commissioner is elected by county judges to serve as a judicial officer. Garcia-Rodrigo was one of a dozen candidates to be considered for the job in 2018. During the interview process, she was questioned by a panel of nine judges.

"When I received the call that I was selected to the bench, I was humbled and excited," she said.

A three-time University of La Verne alumna, Garcia-Rodrigo earned her law degree in 2006, then received a Master of Public Administration in 2008 and a Master of Science in Leadership and Management in 2009. Currently, she is also an adjunct law professor at the University of La Verne.

Even as an undergraduate, she was fascinated by the law.

"It required attention to detail, following rules, and interpretation," she said.

It also required poise and confidence.

As a young litigator, Garcia-Rodrigo remembers watching how judges and attorneys interacted. She learned the importance of speaking up.

"In the beginning I would shy away, especially when I was challenged by a vocal male," Garcia-Rodrigo recalled. "Most of the judges and attorneys were male and Caucasian. I knew that in order to succeed, I had to be assertive, fair, and knowledgeable in my practice."

Over the past decade, Garcia-Rodrigo has gained wide experience in the legal system. A certified specialist in estate planning, probate, and trust law, she has also practiced family, corporate, civil, and appellate law in partnership with her husband, Aruna Rodrigo, at the Rodrigo Law Firm in Ontario, California.

In 2015, Garcia-Rodrigo decided to expand her legal experience to the bench.

"I wanted to challenge myself as a professional and use the hands-on skills I obtained at University of La Verne," said the seasoned litigator, who was recognized by her peers as a SuperLawyer and one of Southern California's Rising Stars for 2015-2018.

She started volunteering as a judge protem, presiding over unlawful detainers, probate, child support, and small claims cases.

"The first time I sat on the bench I fell in love with the justice system all over again," Garcia-Rodrigo said. "My goal is to be a judge one day."

As court commissioner, she usually hears 25 matters a day. It's fast-paced and important work.

"I approach each ruling with an open mind," Garcia-Rodrigo said. "I draw on my own experience as a working professional and a mother of three tackling everyday challenges to appreciate and understand the circumstances of similarly situated individuals coming into my courtroom."

She credits the education she received at the University of La Verne as key to her success.

"The degrees I earned helped set me on an amazing career path," she said. 🐾





BOLD MOVE

L.A. County's new sheriff, Alex Villanueva shocked everyone—himself included—with his historic win in 2018.

IN NOVEMBER, ALEX VILLANUEVA, DPA '05, surprised even his closest supporters when he became the first candidate to unseat an incumbent Los Angeles County Sheriff in a century. His victory over Sheriff Jim McDonnell was also the first time in over 130 years that a Democrat or a Latino was elected to that office.

It was a bold move for Villanueva to run. He was the quintessential underdog when, as a sheriff's lieutenant, he kicked off his candidacy last June.

"Longshot doesn't even begin to describe it," said the 32-year law enforcement veteran. "I only had five or six supporters when I made my announcement. The odds were definitely against me."

Today, Villanueva oversees 18,000 employees and manages a \$3 billion budget. His deputies provide service to more than 3 million residents in an area stretching more than 3,000 square miles in unincorporated county communities and in 42 contract cities.

Although his name wasn't well known in 2018, his campaign promised to "Reform, Rebuild, Restore" the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

"I think people appreciated my authenticity," he said. "I made myself available to the public."

A key moment that crystalized the voters' choice came during the only debate between Villanueva and McDonnell.

The incumbent surrounded himself with legal papers and two cell phones.

Villanueva kept it uncomplicated.

"I only had a bottle of water," he said. "I never rehearsed or made prepared statements. I wanted to be my genuine self. I kept my foot on the pedal the entire time."

One of Villanueva's first initiatives as sheriff has been to implement a merit-based civil service system recognizing staff, recruits, and sheriff department personnel for their commitment to community service.

He has also announced a new selection process for station captains.

"The plan is to open the position to hundreds of lieutenants and open the department to more inclusivity," Villanueva said.

Villanueva will also host media availability meetings the last Wednesday of every month in different communities.

"My goal is to do a lap around the county once a year," he said.

Villanueva plans to double the size of academy classes for incoming recruits while enforcing strict minimum educational requirements: either a two-year degree or 60 units earned from a four-year university.

University training is important to Villanueva.

"With a 25-year educational journey under my belt," he said, "I strongly believe in higher education and the pursuit of lifelong learning."

Villanueva is one of the few L.A. County Sheriffs to hold a doctoral degree—something in which he takes great pride.

"My doctoral degree in public administration from the University of La Verne is extremely valuable and a pillar to my success," he said.

Villanueva was introduced to the University of La Verne during the Baker to Vegas Relay, a yearly race put on by the Los Angeles Police Department. He'd toyed with the idea of going beyond his master's in public administration, but it wasn't until he picked up a pamphlet at the university's booth in the Las Vegas Convention Center that a plan started to take form.

"I connected to the idea of a flexible schedule for a working adult," he said. "I knew it was something I had to do for myself." In 2005, he earned his Doctor of Public Administration from the College of Business and Public Management.

The first day of class, professors at La Verne posed two questions that still ring in Villanueva's ears: "How do you know what you know? And why do we do what we do?"

For Villanueva, the answers continue to evolve.

"The more we learn," he said, "the more we can change for the better." 🐾



Living the Flip

*Reality TV host.
Entrepreneur.
Real estate investor.*

Alumnus **Jessie Rodriguez**
embodies reinvention
in both personal and
professional life.

By **Matt Hutaff**

Photography by **Aaron Okayama**





Jessie and Tina Rodriguez were looking for a place to live when a friend offered to rent his family home to them for a short time. They agreed, and soon found themselves in love with the place. Built in 1906, the five-bedroom, two-story Arts and Crafts-style home had a front porch framed with river rock, ample space for their young sons, and solid bones.

They saw potential – not surprising, considering they currently co-host the HGTV home renovation series *Vintage Flip*. But their interest went way beyond the transactional. Walking the property, they knew the house could potentially be their last – their “forever” home.

So Jessie and Tina made an offer that couldn’t be refused. Now, when he’s not running a successful real estate business, standing in front of the camera, or speaking to audiences across the country, the family works to transform the house in its image. It’s part of the pattern of teardown and reconstruction that’s followed them throughout their lives, including Jessie’s time at the University of La Verne.

Non-Traditional Student

Originally from Fontana, Jessie met Tina while studying architecture at Cal Poly Pomona. Even as their romance blossomed, he changed majors and transferred into La Verne’s computer science program in 2001.

“I wanted a smaller campus environment,” he said. “At La Verne, I knew I could get the attention I would need to succeed.”

Jessie enjoyed campus life. He served as a senator in the university’s student government. At the same time, he began a small mortgage company that quickly took off. Soon, he was struggling with the competing demands of a growing business and a full-time student schedule. So he switched to a part-time business track through the university’s Campus Accelerated Program for Adults.

Boom to Bust

Jessie and Tina married in May 2007, bought a home in Claremont, California, and settled into a comfortable and successful Southern California lifestyle. Mortgages were a hot commodity and Jessie was adept at packaging them.

Then the financial crisis hit.



*“Being able to share our **passion** for historic homes and being able to **transform** them has been the best part.”*

“By the fall of 2007, the market dropped so fast I couldn’t recover,” he recalled. “I had to close down my company. Got behind on payments. My car was repossessed, my home foreclosed on. We had to move in with Tina’s parents.”

While Jessie regrouped, Tina suggested he finish his bachelor’s degree at La Verne. He was only a few courses shy of completion. So Jessie threw himself into school and earned his bachelor’s in public administration in 2008.

“I realized how important the degree was,” he said. “Even though I’d had a successful business before the crash, no one saw my business as real experience. I had to reinvent myself.”

Personal Renovation

It was just the first step in a personal renovation. In a return to real estate, Jessie started Cal American Homes, but instead of financing and processing the dreams of others, this new company purchased, rehabbed, and sold homes throughout the region. It was the perfect fusion of Jessie’s business acumen and love of architecture.

Television was an unplanned phase of the project. After a guest appearance on HGTV’s *Flip or Flop*, the network reached out and offered Jessie and Tina their own show. Since 2016, the couple has breathed life into dozens of classic Craftsman, Victorian, and Mediterranean homes for the camera, with Tina serving as lead designer and Jessie overseeing construction.

“Tina and I never had visions of being on TV, but when the opportunity arose we knew it could be good for our business,” Jessie said. “Being able to share our passion for historic homes and being able to transform them has been the best part.”

Jessie continues his professional metamorphosis. Cal American is a well-oiled machine, so Jessie could afford to spend the past year traveling the country and talking to others interested in real estate. He’s always on the hunt for another business opportunity—as long as it leaves time for his wife, three sons, and a home that’s under continuous renovation.

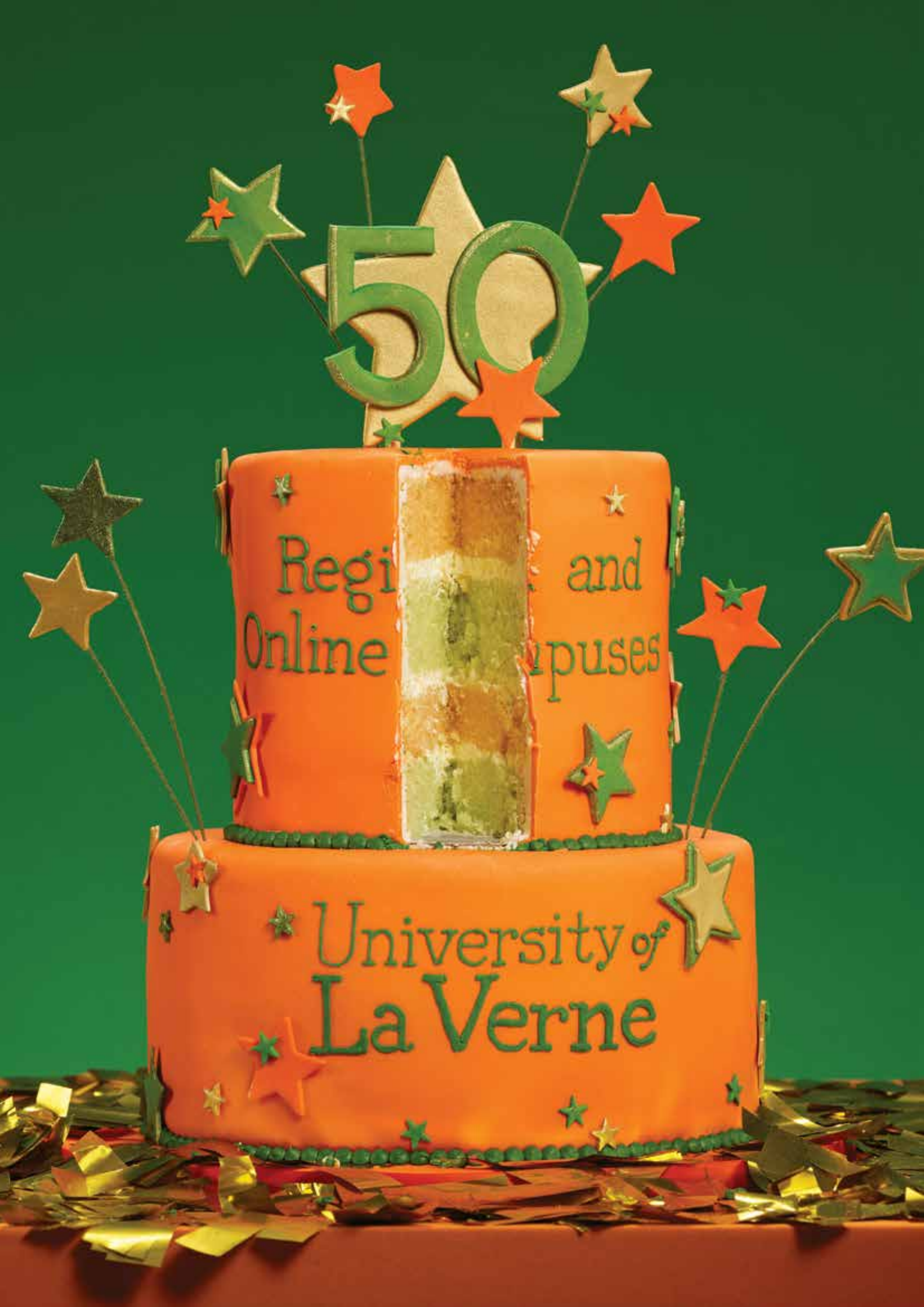
“I will never slow down,” Jessie said, reflecting on his busy life. “After losing everything once and knowing the pain of that, I will never take my foot off the gas.” 🐾



Golden Anniversary

The University of La Verne celebrates
50 years of serving adult learners through its
Regional and Online Campuses.

By Genesis Gonzalez
Photography By William Vasta



50

Regi... and
Online... puses

University of
La Verne



The year was 1969.

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon. Woodstock mesmerized a half-a-million rock 'n' roll fans. Boeing unveiled the first 747 jumbo jet.

AND, AT A SMALL, PRIVATE COLLEGE in Southern California, a man had a vision to transform the higher education experience for working adults.

Leland Newcomer, the 14th president of the University of La Verne, believed “it was the role of the small private college to do something better than everyone else and serve as the model.” So he created the university’s first regional campus, Point Mugu Residence Center (now known as Naval Base Ventura County), with a focus on offering personalized, engaging, and flexible learning experiences to working adults.

Within two years, the Point Mugu campus enrolled more than 300 such adult learners, prompting the university to open a second regional campus at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Newcomer’s innovation established the university as a pioneer in adult education. Under the leadership of Dr. James Manolis, dean emeritus of the School of

Continuing Education (SCE), the vision expanded further. Today, the University of La Verne offers tailored undergraduate and graduate educational experiences for working adults at campuses in Bakersfield, Burbank, Irvine, La Verne, Ontario, Oxnard, Naval Base Ventura County, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Victorville, and online. The university also partners with corporations, health-care facilities, and public agencies to deliver degree and training programs on-site.

In honor of the 50th anniversary of this pioneering effort, *Voice* spoke with four longtime leaders of the university’s Regional and Online Campus administration: Nelly Kazman, interim dean; Pam Bergovoy, assistant dean and director of Centers for Educators; Carrie Lewis Hasse, assistant dean, advising and retention services; and Patti Noreen, senior executive director of Campus Accelerated Program for Adults (CAPA).



A LOOK BACK:

(Top row, left to right)
Regional campus Bakersfield; William (Bill) Landreth and Dorothy John in front of the Point Mugu Residence Center at the Naval Pacific Missile Range.

(Middle row, left to right)
Dean Emeritus James Manolis at the grand opening of the School of Continuing Education (SCE); ROC executive leadership shares a meal together.

(Bottom)
Nelly Kazman, interim dean, meets with a graduate student in the Master of Science in Leadership and Management.



NELLY KAZMAN, MBA '84, EdD '13
Interim Dean

What was the biggest challenge in the beginning?

KAZMAN: Overcoming the initial learning curve involved in serving the unique needs of adult learners. There was no guidebook to help the university navigate this new market. We learned how to serve these new learners by just doing. We now have a deep reservoir of expertise on what adult learners need and value in choosing degree programs. The hallmark of our success with today's adult learners is providing relevant and meaningful education with the essential student support services in a personalized way.

How did the regional campus model develop?

BERGOVOY: The simple answer is, organically. As our student population grew in the early 1980s, we realized the need to create a business model to effectively serve adult learners. Over time, interest in completing degree programs in specific geographic areas increased greatly. As a result, we opened regional campuses throughout California, including Orange County and the San Fernando Valley.

What do you think first attracted adult learners to the University of La Verne?

KAZMAN: In the beginning, very few universities offered flexible, convenient, and affordable degree programs at night for full-time working adults. Adult learners were attracted to the University of La Verne's cutting-edge and innovative approach to education. Our Regional and Online Campuses, as the entrepreneurial arm of a traditional university, delivered what these adult learners needed in order to advance their careers.



PAM BERGOVOY
Assistant Dean and Director of Centers for Educators

How did the university respond to changes in those needs?

BERGOVOY: We began by offering degree programs in business administration at aerospace and medical technology companies in 1975. Many of these employees had strong technical skills but needed to gain management skills to advance in their careers. The off-campus programs opened up the opportunity for adult learners to pursue their degree programs on-site. Over time we began offering programs in education, health care, and public administration in response to market demand.

How did Campus Accelerated Program for Adults (CAPA) fit into the model?

NOREEN: The University of La Verne recognized the same need to serve adult learners on its home campus. In response, we created CAPA over 40 years ago. Even though it is located on the La Verne Campus, CAPA programs are designed to accommodate adult learners.

In the first few years, who was the typical adult learner?

LEWIS HASSE: For the most part, the typical adult learner 50 years ago was no different than adult learners of today, in terms of working full-time and having to juggle work and family responsibilities. On reflection, however, two differences come to mind. The adult learners of yesterday were older and more set in their career paths. Today's adult learners are younger and expect to change careers (not jobs) several times in their professional lives.



CARRIE LEWIS HASSE, MBA '96
Assistant Dean, Advising and Retention Services



PATTI NOREEN, EdD '14
Senior Executive Director of CAPA

How would you describe today's adult learners?

NOREEN: They are motivated and dedicated students who expect their professors to bring real-life education into the classrooms. They are looking for an educational experience where the skills they learn in the classroom can directly apply to their workplace and networking opportunities with their classmates and faculty. They also have expectations for high-quality service delivered in ways to meet their unique needs.

How has the university adapted to their changing expectations?

BERGOVOY: The new generation of adult learners values flexibility, personalized service, and relevant education. The university offers a variety of degree programs through face-to-face, hybrid, and online learning modes. We have an outstanding student-service focus. Adult learners at the University of La Verne are not just a number. Each student is assigned an academic advisor who guides them from admission to graduation day.

What are your goals for the next five years?

KAZMAN: Our goals will be strongly influenced by the fast-changing forces already shaping higher education and emerging trends in what adult learners value. We will continue to update our curriculum by working with external and relevant advisory boards that can assist in program design and revision. We will continue to expand our delivery models—which include face-to-face, online, hybrid, and blended—to provide maximum flexibility and options for our students.

How satisfied are alumni with their degrees?

LEWIS HASSE: Based on my interactions with alumni, many have a deep appreciation for the opportunity provided by the university to complete their education. What may have been a dream at one point in their lives became a reality. Furthermore, they value the relationships they developed with their faculty and classmates, which in many cases have expanded beyond their years at La Verne. Finally, they are proud of their personal and professional achievements as educated citizens in their communities.

Will the university expand to more locations?

KAZMAN: We are continuously assessing how we can best meet the demands of the marketplace. The key is to stay focused on our core values and commitment to providing quality academic experiences in a personalized manner. Any future expansion plans must ensure that all our students receive a high-value education, offered in an inclusive learning environment that values both the diversity of our students and diversity as an important asset for growing and succeeding in today's global, complex, and ever-changing world. ★★



**A research voyage to the Bering Sea
nets data that math professor Emily
Cilli-Turner uses to reel in students.**

By Monica Rodriguez

sea average





FEW MATHEMATICIANS would sign up for three weeks at sea sorting through fish entrails in frigid temperatures. But Emily Cilli-Turner has an adventurous spirit. Last summer, the University of La Verne assistant professor of mathematics participated in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Teacher at Sea program. This once-in-a-lifetime adventure placed her aboard a ship trawling the Eastern Bering Sea to study the well-being of a common Alaskan fish.

Cilli-Turner was one of three dozen educators selected for the Teacher at Sea 2018 Field Season, which places teachers alongside NOAA scientists to do hands-on research and use that experience to enrich STEM classrooms.

“I was able to collect real-world data that I can share with my students and that they can analyze for an authentic experience,” she said.

Though Cilli-Turner expressed no preference in her application for a specific assignment, she admits to secretly hoping for Alaska. Her wish came true.

She spent three weeks in the Eastern Bering Sea aboard the research vessel, *Oscar Dyson*, conducting a population survey of walleye pollock. The waters are home to some of the largest concentrations of the fish, and NOAA closely monitors their numbers to make sure they remain at sustainable levels.

Cilli-Turner’s voyage began in the Aleutian Island fishing port of Dutch Harbor, surrounded by green mountains rising sharply from the sea. Her 12-hour shifts began at 4 a.m., often in the cold and dark. The sun rose at 7 a.m. and didn’t set until midnight, and daytime temperatures peaked at 49°F.

Beyond the occasional puffin or pod of killer whales, “there’s not a lot out there,” she said. “We were really close to Russian waters a couple of times.”

The crew caught pollock using large trawling nets. Cilli-Turner and her research team gathered samples from the catch, carefully culling any non-pollock species. In the on-board lab, they dissected each pollock and recorded such data as length, weight, and sex. The otolith, or hearing bone, was removed to determine the specimen’s age.

The data helps NOAA determine the health of the pollock population and how fishing is affecting the species. Walleye pollock is a major biological component of the Bering Sea ecosystem—one of the world’s largest fisheries—and a significant source of food for humans.

“It’s a sustainability issue,” Cilli-Turner said. “We want to make sure they will be around for years to come.”

When not dissecting pollock, Cilli-Turner blogged about the voyage and chatted with scientists, crew, and NOAA Corps members, who managed and operated NOAA’s fleet of research vessels and aircraft. All have science degrees and are putting their academic training to practical use.



"I was able to collect real-world data that I can share with my students and that they can analyze for an authentic experience."

PROFESSOR CILLI-TURNER uses her Teacher at Sea experience in the classroom, showing students how math solves real-world problems.
Photo by: Natasha Brennan



That insight is one of the most important Cilli-Turner brought back to University of La Verne, according to Gail Tang, associate professor of mathematics and chairwoman of the university's mathematics program.

"Research shows that students are more engaged when the mathematics they learn is applied to real-world situations," Tang said. "Research also shows that when we see others do something, it makes it easier for us to do."

A deep effect of Cilli-Turner's participation is that students see her "take a risk to live in a way she never has before in order to make connections—in this case between mathematics and environmental science," Tang said. It may lead to students exploring career options they didn't know were available to them.

Cilli-Turner has already folded the experience into her probability course. Using NOAA data collected during a prior year's study and details from her own voyage, she developed a lesson plan in which students process and analyze the information.

In January, Cilli-Turner traveled to Baltimore to speak at the joint mathematics meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America. Many in the audience were unaware of the Teacher at Sea program and expressed interest in applying.

Others had questions about how the data she collected could be used in class.

The experience at sea will allow Cilli-Turner to expose her students to inquiry-based instruction, a teaching method used to spark curiosity.

Her students will also see how empirical problems are often open-ended and may have multiple solutions, said Associate Professor Yousef Daneshbod, one of Cilli-Turner's colleagues in the mathematics department.

"I am so glad that I was able to have this experience, and I hope I can use it to spread information about the role of mathematics and about potential careers at NOAA for mathematics students," Cilli-Turner said. }

LEARN MORE about Emily Cilli-Turner's voyage in her NOAA Teacher at Sea blog at voice.laverne.edu/emily





The Business of Helping Others

*The Enactus program inspires
students to improve the world
through entrepreneurial action.*

By
**Genesis
Gonzalez**



Fish vendor Salvador, right, has tripled his earnings since Enactus students, left, presented him with this bicycle cart.



These solar water pasteurizers, assembled by Enactus students at San Diego-based Solar Solutions, will keep 1,000 Cambodian villagers safe from deadly pathogens.



After building them a garden at Alcott Elementary School in Pomona, Enactus students helped the kids plant veggies in the raised beds.

Salvador, a street vendor, in Baja, California, used to push a baby stroller filled with tamales, burritos, and fresh fish 3 miles into a Mexican town, hoping to earn enough money to support his family.

He dreamed of buying a bicycle cart—a business goal financially beyond his reach.

That changed when students, faculty, and staff from the University of La Verne's Enactus program crossed the border to help. They provided Salvador with tools and business strategies to improve his sales. They purchased new cooking equipment and supplies for him. And, of course, the bicycle cart.

The payoff was huge. Salvador's sales have tripled since he started cycling 13 miles to the major tourist city of Rosarito.

And Salvador isn't the only one who has benefited.

Students in the Enactus program are growing both professionally and personally as they tackle unique challenges with entrepreneurial skills. Most are business majors, and the experience will come in handy whether they end up working for corporations, small businesses, or nonprofits.

The international nonprofit organization has trained more than 500 students at the University of La Verne since launching in 2006. Students have helped communities and empowered individuals.

"Being a member of the Enactus program has given me the opportunity to be part of something bigger than myself," said Robert Buono, a senior business administration major.

Through Enactus, La Verne students have launched projects providing clean water and sanitation for families in Cambodia, donated business clothes to college graduates in the Philippines, helped elementary school students plant a vegetable garden, and connected with independent adults living with disabilities.

"The experience of helping others through Enactus is one-of-a-kind," said Issam Ghazzawi, professor of management and adviser to the university's Enactus chapter. "Our students apply

the business knowledge they learn in the classroom to address real-world problems. You can't beat that."

The program helps students develop soft skills, such as communication and collaboration, that they will need to be successful entrepreneurs and leaders, said Ghazzawi. And it has connected students to internships and job opportunities at companies such as PepsiCo, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Johnson & Johnson, ADP, Clorox, Orchard Supply Hardware, Frito-Lay, and Schwan Food Company.

In between service projects, the Enactus team competes regionally in contests that rate its objectives, strategies, and outcomes against those of its collegiate peers.

The team's success has drawn national and regional recognition. It received the 2016 Enactus Jack Shewmaker Spirit Award, Discover Card Success Skills Award, and Clorox Market/Economics Award. It has also been recognized by Campbell's Soup and Nature Made for community impact.

At last year's Enactus National Exposition in San Jose, California, Ghazzawi received the Jack Kahl Entrepreneurial Leadership Award. The award is given to a college professor who has greatly advanced the national Enactus organization. Ghazzawi has advised the La Verne chapter for the past 12 years.

"It has been my pleasure to see the passion and growth of my students," he said. "Real-world learning is essential to the learning experience and life experience." 🍎

"Our students apply the business knowledge they learn in the classroom to address real-world problems. You can't beat that."

Dr. Issam Ghazzawi



Your **contributions**
lead to
direct **results.**



Fedele Bauccio, chief executive officer of Bon Appétit

University of La Verne's historic campaign to raise **\$125 million** continues. Thank you to the enthusiastic donors who have brought us to **\$95 million** in contributions. Help us reach our goal at **createthefuture.laverne.edu**.

SINCE 2011, Bon Appétit has provided delicious food at our campus dining hall and at official university functions. The University of La Verne appreciates the Palo Alto-based company's dedication to nutritious, sustainable food preparation and distribution, which is aligned with our commitment to holistic health and well-being.

Last fall, Bon Appétit Chief Executive Officer and co-founder Fedele Bauccio deepened his company's relationship with the university. Following a lively conversation with University President Devorah Lieberman, Bauccio committed to a major gift that will endow an executive director position for the new Randall Lewis Center for Well-Being and Research, currently under construction.

Thanks to Bauccio's generous and visionary support, the university is moving forward with a search for the first executive director. This individual will work across campus to develop, implement, and assess La Verne's health and well-being programs; determine research priorities; provide strategic direction; and shape and manage external partnerships.

Cheers to you, Fedele Bauccio! We look forward to our continued partnership as we elevate the health and well-being of the university community for many years to come.



Randall Lewis Center for Well-Being and Research



The Spot Dining Hall



Uncanny Details

Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Oprah Winfrey count themselves among the admirers of Phoebe Beasley, University of La Verne's 2019 Artist-in-Residence.

PHOEBE BEASLEY ONCE MADE OPRAH WINFREY CRY.

Winfrey's longtime partner, Stedman Graham, had commissioned the mixed-media artist, who is the University of La Verne's 2019 artist-in-residence, to create an artwork as a gift.

When the two women first met to discuss the project, Beasley described her visual idea: a tableau from Oprah's childhood, accompanied by her grandparents.

Winfrey's eyes filled with tears.

With only a few photos to use as reference, Beasley had drawn inspiration mostly from intuition. Yet her words conjured up an uncannily accurate representation, including details the megastar had never discussed publicly.

Winfrey became an avid collector and supporter of Beasley's work—as have other famous people like Shonda Rhimes, Samuel L. Jackson, Keenan Ivory Wayans, Tyler Perry, and the late Maya Angelou.

PAINTER OF PRESIDENTS

Beasley is the only artist in history to have received the Presidential Seal for two separate commissions: the 1989 inauguration of President George H.W. Bush, and President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. She was one of 44 artists asked to participate in the 2012 traveling exhibition *Visions of Our 44th President*, honoring President Barack Obama.

While her credentials are impressive, it isn't the list of famous patrons that defines Beasley as an artist. Rather, it is the profound impact that her work has on many who encounter it—channeling her deep empathy and caring for her subjects.

Beasley has been active since the 1960s. Her collages employ a mix of painting, drawing, and found materials to conjure vivid scenes of everyday life. Fragments of utilitarian objects—skirts, boxes, a radio, a fishing rod and reel—combine with her expressive marks to evoke a familiar, lived-in feel on the canvas.

Beasley also creates abstract works. These pieces show her mastery of the two-dimensional medium and pay homage to her modern and contemporary influences, which range from hard-edge painting to Robert Rauschenberg. She makes sculptures in the great tradition of California assemblage, artfully arranging found objects that she imbues with symbolic meaning.

BEASLEY SHOWS AT HARRIS GALLERY

Beasley's works were on display at the University of La Verne's Harris Gallery from March 18 through May 17, 2019. The exhibition followed a two-week, on-campus residency in January, during which Beasley created new artworks, collaborated with two student interns, and conferred with students and faculty.

She was particularly excited about using technology, such as oversize and 3D printers in the Wilson Library's Makerspace. She focused on creating an enlarged, mounted edition of *Class of '33*, which would form the centerpiece of the exhibition. Both the exhibition and the residency were supported in part by university donors and ardent art patrons Brenda and Bill Galloway.

Reflecting on her long career and large body of work, Beasley speaks fondly of the pieces portraying people, their accomplishments, histories, and communities.

Asked what makes her happiest, she pauses for a moment to consider her answer.

"It's when collectors tell me that I'm a part of their home," Beasley said. "That they see my work every day and look for new things in it. Since I don't have kids, my work is my legacy." 🍷

STUDENTS DAMAIRIS LAO, LEFT, AND SHYONTA GLOTHON, RIGHT, worked collaboratively with mixed-media artist Phoebe Beasley on a rendition of Beasley's *Class of '33*.

WHAT'S NEW ALUMNI NOTES





- 1 **Tia Keeth '10** welcomed baby Declan into the world.
- 2 **Eden De Ruse-Moore '85** married John Moore, an interior designer from San Diego, on May 19, 2018, under a canopy of redwoods at the base of the Avenue of the Giants.

Allison Farole '07, a TV broadcast graduate, was named the state of Virginia's Emergency Management Professional of the Year.

- 3 **Iliana Garcia, MPA '17**, and **Michael Flores, MPA '17**, were married September 2018.

Robert Fosmire, MBA '99, was promoted to senior vice president of customer success of Greenway Health, a leading health information technology and services provider.

Teresa Dreyfuss, MBA '89, president and superintendent of Rio Hondo College, has been honored as the 2019 Distinguished Woman of the Year for the 57th Assembly District, recognizing her contributions to the community and student success.

- 4 **Deborah Caruso, EdD '18**, was appointed director of human resources for the County of San Bernardino. She is currently teaching graduate courses in leadership and management at University of La Verne.
- 5 **Erica Schatz Brown '03** welcomed son Calvin Robert Brown, born on July 22, 2018.

David Palmer '59 and **Mary Palmer '59**, both retired, welcomed their first great-grandchild to the family. They have nine grandchildren.

- 6 Army Specialist **Nicholas DeGrano '16** completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, serving as a platoon guide. He began combat medic training in January 2019.

Catherine Heinlein '07 received a 2017-18 Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research and education at a missionary hospital in Kolkata, India. Her project centered on a "train-the-trainer" model for nursing students to implement a diabetes behavior-change program.

David Plouffe '04 published his first book, *Art Appreciation: An Introduction to the Formal Elements and Mediums*. He is a lecturer at Cal State Fullerton.

Chad Collins, MBA '10, has been promoted to president of Akro-Mils and Jamco, a storage, organization, and transport products manufacturing company.

- 7 **Bryan Hayes '16** and his wife Andrea met while competing on the cross-country team at the University of La Verne. Bryan is currently pursuing his PhD in physics at Oklahoma State University, while Andrea earns her master's degree in applied behavior analysis at Arizona State University.

In Memoriam

Steve Lawrence '69 passed away Feb. 22 in Sacramento. Lawrence was a California state politics reporter with the Associated Press, covering governors from Ronald Reagan to Arnold Schwarzenegger during a nearly four-decade career. Following his retirement, he logged thousands of hours as a volunteer for the Greater Sacramento Habitat for Humanity. He is survived by his wife, Jane; his daughter, Beth; his son, Michael; his son-in-law, James; and his four grandsons.

John "Jack" J. Latzanich II, JD '76, passed away in Bartonsville, Pennsylvania, at the age of 63. Latzanich spent the first 20 years of his career as a trial attorney and recently started his own successful small business. With a passion for sharing his knowledge, Latzanich taught criminal justice at Northampton Community College. He is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Susan; his brother, Robert; sister, Nancy; uncle, Paul; his wife, Marie; and three nieces and nephews.

Heavy Uplift

Strength and conditioning coach Matt Durant shapes student-athletes for success beyond college.

COLLEGIATE STRENGTH COACHES are known for being gruff, my-way-or-the-highway authoritarians. Matt Durant fits the stereotype.

The University of La Verne strength and conditioning coach patrols the Moseley Strength and Fitness Center and Ortmayer Stadium, scowling and barking at hard-working student athletes, pushing them to be stronger and to go faster.

But there's more to his method than muscle-building menace. Durant, who was named National Sports Performance Association 2017 Coach of the Year, cares deeply about his students. Those who follow his lead are conditioned for success beyond athletics.

"They're not always going to have people around telling them how great they are," said Durant, a 1999 graduate of the University of La Verne. "I want them to be able to handle different circumstances. To go through life, see a situation, walk up to it, and deal with it."

The "Durant experience" is a shock for many first-year students.

"I had never touched a weight before, so it was a big, loud wake-up call for me," recalled Leslie Flores-Cloud '07, former La Verne volleyball player and now Eastern Washington University head volleyball coach. "He held us accountable for anything we did."

Durant's punishing regimens and pugnacious coaching style have not changed over his 19 years at the helm. He expects his athletes to perform without excuses because those are the expectations they will face after college.

"There's a high level of accountability. It's not just show-up-and-do-it. It's do-it, be-good-at-it, work-really-hard-at-it, and don't-have-an-attitude-about-it," Durant said.

He coaches people to achieve goals they hadn't dared set themselves. That can translate to lifting a heavier weight or increasing their endurance. But for most student-athletes, it means something more.

"He may seem intimidating, but he wants the best for us," said former La Verne men's basketball player Adrian Ferrera '06, now director of counseling and sport psychology at Auburn University. "He wants us to be familiar with adverse situations so we know how to push through them."

For Flores-Cloud, being held accountable by Durant gave her the confidence to dream big.

"He pushed us to a point we had no idea we could reach," she said, "and made sure we didn't settle for less. That mentality has aided me professionally. He helped me believe I was bigger than my previous aspirations. I wouldn't be where I am today without him."



HEART OF LA VERNE UNIQUELY LA VERNE

Photography by
NATASHA BRENNAN

UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE students, faculty, and community members participated in a sage ceremony in front of Citrus Hall in March before attending the Robert and Mary Neher Global Sustainability lecture led by indigenous environmental activist and hip hop artist Xiuhtezcatl Martinez (left).





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