

Voice

University of La Verne Magazine

Spring 2023



PRESIDENT

DEVORAH LIEBERMAN

VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

SHERRI MYLOTT, EDD '23

MANAGING EDITOR

ALEXANDRA CLAYTON '18

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

JAMIE AYALA

ROD LEVEQUE

WRITERS

CAROL CHEH

ALEXANDRA CLAYTON '18

BARBARA GOEN

MATT HUTAFF, MS '21

BEN JENKINS '11

DIANE KRIEGER

ROD LEVEQUE

NICOLE PEREZ

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

KATIE BLAINE, MS '23

DESIGNERS

KATIE BLAINE, MS '23

MARISSA MERIDA

PHOTOGRAPHY

JEANINE HILL

WILLIAM VASTA

WEB DESIGNERS

JOSEPH BISHARAT '14

MATT HUTAFF, MS '21

ADVISORY BOARD

SHANNON CAPALDI, EDD '17

ISSAM GHAZZAWI

KIMBERLY GRANT

WENDY LAU '98

MARY ANN MELLEBY, MS '91

NANCY NEWMAN, MS '19

COPYRIGHT 2023

UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

1950 THIRD STREET

LA VERNE, CALIFORNIA 91750

VOICE@LAVERNE.EDU



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



WHEN THE UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE WAS FOUNDED IN 1891 AS LORDSBURG COLLEGE,

members of the surrounding community supported this bold, new, and visionary institution with donations of plants and shrubs to beautify the grounds.

Over the ensuing decades, countless additional benefactors gave their time, wisdom, and treasure to expand facilities, support the faculty, and educate our students.

The photos that line our hallways and the names attached to many buildings, scholarships, and centers represent more than just our history.

They reflect the legacy of those who had a vision of what the University of La Verne could become, and dedicated themselves to see that vision brought to life.

“This remarkable university, its students, faculty, staff, Board of Trustees, alumni, and greater community have filled my soul and my passion.”

This issue of *Voice* explores the power of legacies; how each generation that has passed through the university has made a positive impact for those who followed, and the work now underway to benefit the students of tomorrow.

As you explore these pages, you will learn how we have built upon our Brethren heritage to become a vibrant Hispanic-Serving Institution, and how the values that emerged throughout our history are guiding our future focus.

You will discover an artist who sculpted his memories of Jewish life in pre-World War II Ukraine, and the family that has entrusted his legacy to the university for preservation. You will hear from Professor of Humanities Al Clark, who has recorded the memories of more than 950 students, faculty, and staff in order to preserve the university's history from the perspectives of those who lived it.

You will learn how the LaFetra College of Education is partnering with school districts across the state to prepare educators to teach the next generation of students. And, you will meet Bob Dyer, a fixture at the university for more than 60 years, who has a lifelong connection to the university as both a place and an ideal.

Lastly, this will be the final issue in which my name is printed in the staff box of *Voice*, as I will be retiring from my position on July 1, 2023.

It has been my honor and privilege to have served as the president of the University of La Verne for these past 12 years. This remarkable university, its students, faculty, staff, Board of Trustees, alumni, and greater community have filled my soul and my passion. Thank you for supporting me on this journey and for being—like me—a Leo for life!

Devorah Lieberman

Devorah Lieberman, PhD
President



12 A Lasting Legacy

The historical legacy of the University of La Verne is examined through key defining moments from the university's past and present with each milestone lending guidance for the university's future.

18 A Portrait of Success

University of La Verne President Devorah Lieberman reflects on her dozen years of leadership, the values that inspired her throughout her service, and the memories she will cherish as she closes her chapter in the university's presidential history.

22 Henry Halpern: A Collection of Jewish Life

Learn about the conservation efforts taking place from the Cultural and Natural History Collections on a historical donation of folk-art sculptures from the Malgert Halpern and Irving Cohen family that depict Jewish life and culture in pre-World War II Ukraine and the United States.

24 Golden Voice

Trustee and longtime supporter of the university Bob Dyer '63 shares his experiences at his alma mater and what he remembers most about his time as an announcer before retirement.

- 2 Message from the President
- 4 Bookshelf
- 5 University Announcement
- 34 Throwback: Super Tents Celebrate 50-Year Anniversary

NEWS & NOTES

- 6 Short Takes
- 8 Worth Noting
- 9 Dialogue: In Conversation with Al Clark
- 10 Advancement

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- 26 Partnerships Accelerating a Rebuild
- 28 Soaring in Service
- 29 Brantley's Brewing a Boycott
- 30 A Labor of Love

LEOPARD TRACKS

- 31 Alumni Notes

Share your story with us by visiting voice.laverne.edu

FOLLOW US

[laverne.edu/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/laverne.edu)

[laverne.edu/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/laverne.edu)

[laverne.edu/twitter](https://twitter.com/laverne.edu)

[laverne.edu/instagram](https://www.instagram.com/laverne.edu)

Looking for your next good book?

See what our faculty have written on the Bookshelf below, or by visiting voice.laverne.edu/bookshelf.



1 Sean Bernard

Professor of Creative Writing

Desert Sonorous: Stories

In *Desert Sonorous*, Bernard creates a unique and energetic debut collection of creative stories that address contemporary issues such as immigration, drought, and shootings, by blending realism with experimental writing techniques. This book shares a cast of memorable characters in search of life's deeper meanings.

2 Deborah A. Olson

Professor of Management and Leadership

Mid and Late Career Issues: An Integrative Perspective by Mo Wang, Deborah A. Olson, and Kenneth S. Shultz

In this collaborative applied psychology series, the authors look at the issues faced by workers in their mid and late career stages, particularly regarding the psychosocial dynamics of mid and late careers.

3 Devorah Lieberman

University of La Verne President

To Improve the Academy: Resources for Faculty, Instructional, and Organizational Development by Devorah Lieberman and Catherine M. Wehlburg

To Improve the Academy offers a resource for improvement of higher education for faculty and instructional development staff, department chairs, deans, student services staff, chief academic officers, and educational consultants.

4 Richard Rose

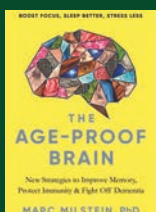
Professor of Religion and Philosophy

An Interreligious Approach to a Social Ethic for Christian Audiences

Through the lens of a Christian minister immersed in the global interfaith movement and trained in religious philosophy, this book develops a social ethic that helps bridge diverse religious mental states from different traditions by creating common ground connections through various social values, function, and morality.

STAY CONNECTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE!

The Office of Alumni Engagement has three new ways to help you build your network and develop your skills.



Monthly Webinars

Learn from nationally recognized talent as they discuss timely topics of interest, no travel required! Check out the alumni-exclusive lineup of speakers and register today at alumlc.org/laverne.



Private Online Networking

Join thousands of graduates on the Leo Alumni Network today by visiting leoalumninetwork.com or on the Google Play app. Activate your Leo Connect profile and access jobs, promote your business, share opportunities, chat within private alumni and faculty groups, and more.



Text Messaging

Receive news and event information faster by signing up to receive our text message alerts. Visit alumni.laverne.edu/texting or scan the QR code to opt in today.

President Devorah Lieberman to Retire After 12 Years of Remarkable Service

By Rod Leveque

University of La Verne President Devorah Lieberman has announced her plans to retire effective July 1, 2023, ending a remarkable 12-year tenure as the institution's leader.

"It has been a tremendous privilege to serve as the president of the University of La Verne," Lieberman said. "Working with our incredible students, faculty, and staff has meant more to me than I could ever begin to express, both professionally and personally. This decision does not come lightly, although it is the right time given personal health issues in my family."

The Board of Trustees is leading a national search for a new president. Lieberman will work closely with the board during the transition and will play a significant role in aiding and onboarding her successor.

"I speak on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees when I say that Devorah's retirement leaves us with feelings of appreciation, gratitude, and pride for what has been accomplished during her presidency," said Anthony Revier, MBA '93, chair of the Board of Trustees. "She has led with a heart and vision to serve the students, faculty, and staff of the University of La Verne, and she has met and exceeded the board's expectations of her leadership. Her legacy at the university will shine for generations to come."

Lieberman, the 18th president of University of La Verne and its first female president, came to the university in 2011 from Wagner College in New York, where she had served as provost.

Almost immediately upon arrival, Lieberman began working with the faculty to reimagine the university's academic and co-curricular programs, including through the creation of a Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Civic and Community Engagement.



Under her leadership, the university completed the largest fundraising campaign in its history, raising more than \$128 million for priorities such as student scholarships, academic and research programs and centers, endowed professorships, equipment, buildings, and faculty research.

She led the execution of a Campus Master Plan that reflected the institution's core values with renewed physical spaces that increased community, welcomed diversity, and promoted lifelong learning. This included construction of two residence halls; a dining hall; a parking structure; the Randall Lewis Center for Well-Being and Research; the Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding, and Community Engagement; and the Campus West athletic facilities.

She also led the university through the tumultuous years of the COVID-19 pandemic, prioritizing the safety of the university community while ensuring that students continued to receive a high-quality education, even as traditional business operations were disrupted.

She brought visibility to the university by sharpening its identity as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, as well as through her activity on leadership boards of numerous industry associations.

Most recently, she guided the establishment of a new College of Health and Community Well-Being and laid the foundation for an expanded university footprint in downtown Ontario, California.

"The Board of Trustees would be remiss if it did not also highlight the leadership that her husband, Roger Auerbach, has brought to the University of La Verne," Revier said. "Roger's support of all things La Verne has been evident since the day he joined Devorah during the interview process."

Campus Center Becomes Official Voting Station for General Election

For the first time, the university served as a national polling station for the November general election, made possible by a partnership between Los Angeles County and the Office of Civic and Community Engagement. All eligible voters cast their ballots on the first floor of the Sara and Michael Abraham Campus Center.



Professors Receive 2022 Excellence in Teaching Awards

Assistant Professor of Law Michele Assael-Shafia, JD '95, and Associate Professor in Mathematics Gail Tang are the recipients of the University of La Verne's 2022 Excellence in Teaching Award. The annual award is bestowed by the provost and recognizes faculty who have displayed extraordinary effectiveness and creativity in their work.

Neher Field Research Station Installs Wildfire Detection Camera

The Bob and Mary Neher Montana Field Research Station has installed a state-of-the-art 360-degree remote-operated camera to help detect wildfires in the Montana wilderness in collaboration with ALERTWildfire Camera Network. It can record images, video, and alert firefighters and first responders of a fire, aiding the state's firefighting efforts.



University Joins Grow With Google's HSI Career Readiness Program

The University of La Verne has joined Grow With Google's Career Readiness program which will help Latino students at 35 Hispanic-Serving Institutions prepare for the workforce through digital skill training and career workshops. The program, in partnership with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), will train 200,000 Latino students by 2025.



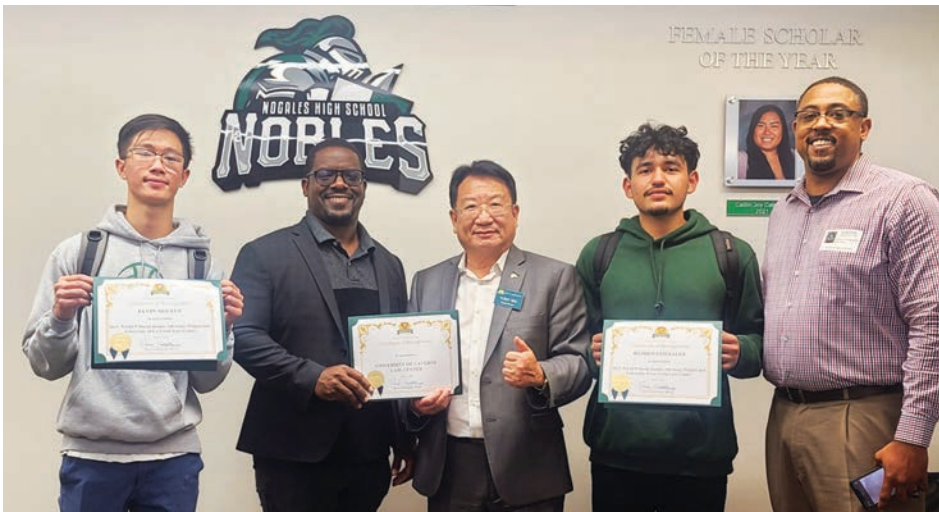
Deborah Olson Named Landis Endowed Professor

Deborah Olson, professor of management and leadership in the College of Business and Public Management, has been selected as the inaugural Richard G. and Beth T. Landis Endowed Professor in Business Leadership and Ethics. Prior to becoming a full-time faculty member at the University of La Verne in the fall of 2008, she had over 25 years of experience working as a consultant to organizational leaders focusing on the areas of human capital management and development, team effectiveness, ethical leadership, and strategic culture change design and implementation.



Professor Inducted into Royal Academy

Juli Minoves-Triquell, associate professor of political science in the College of Arts and Sciences, has been inducted into the Spanish Royal Academy of Economic and Financial Sciences of the Institute of Spain. He was unanimously elected by his academic peers due to his professional experience in academic and international affairs, which includes work as director for the International Institute of the University of La Verne and for his former service as foreign minister of Andorra.



Justice Center Receives City Recognition for Youth Entrepreneurship Program

The city of West Covina recognized the Justice Center for providing a 10-session youth entrepreneurship community-based curriculum to a cohort of 15 students from Nogales High School. The classes taught them how to turn their business dreams into legally compliant, fully operational business realities. Classes were led by San Gabriel Valley NAACP President TJ Campbell, with the support of Assistant Professor of Legal Studies Thomas Allison and students from the Justice Center.

University Joins Coalition for College

The university joined the Coalition for College network of more than 150 higher education institutions committed to providing students with a successful, affordable, and transformative college experience. The online platform connects students with information, tools, and other resources that allow them to apply to their schools of choice with ease. Members of the coalition must be accredited, four-year, public or private, non-profit, degree-granting institutions with reported access and success metrics through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).



Professor Wins Cinematography Award

Morgan Sandler, professor of film and television in the College of Arts and Sciences, won a best cinematography award at the Madrid International Film Festival for his contributions to the documentary *Bella*. The film on the legendary choreographer Bella Lewitsky has since won and been nominated for awards at dozens of film festivals in the United States, Europe, and Latin America.

University of La Verne Ranked 6th Nationally for Social Mobility



The University of La Verne ranked sixth nationally for social mobility of students and in the top 10 among best private national universities in California in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2023 Best Colleges rankings.

In the Best Value Schools category, the university placed 10th in California and is 101st nationally out of 223 institutions that were ranked. Overall, it ranked 151st among 440 institutions considered to be National Universities, which includes universities such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Stanford.

"The University of La Verne continues to demonstrate how it is truly an institution of distinction in this country," President Devorah Lieberman said. "We will continue to lead as champions of social mobility for

our graduates and provide students with a high-quality education that helps better themselves and their families."

Top performers on the *U.S. News & World Report* social mobility ranking were measured by the extent schools enrolled and graduated students who received federal Pell Grants, which means their total family incomes are usually less than \$50,000 per year.

In addition to the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, the University of La Verne was included in the *Washington Monthly* 2022 rankings, which featured the school in its Best Bang for the Buck Colleges in the West and National University categories.

Kathy Duncan Selected as Dean of College of Health and Community Well-Being



The University of La Verne appointed Kathy Duncan, EdD, as interim dean of the College of Health and Community Well-Being, on January 1, 2023.

Duncan, who came to the university in 2002, brings a wealth of experience in health care and management. She is the first full-time dean to lead the college, which opened on July 1, 2022.

"It's an honor to step into this role, and to help shape something so important to the future of the University of La Verne," Duncan said. "I've been closely involved in the planning and vision for this college from the beginning, and I'm thrilled to see it become a reality."

The college is a hub for high-quality education, research, and innovation in health and the social determinants of health. It also provides a pipeline of qualified graduates to support the Southern California region's growing need for healthcare professionals.

Duncan has served in an array of leadership roles at University of La Verne, including directing the Master of Science in Leadership and Management, Master of Health Administration, and Master of Science in Gerontology programs. She has also been chair of the Faculty Assembly and Graduate Council, a member of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Diversity Committee, faculty representative to the Board of Trustees, and a member of the College of Health Special Committee.

Prior to coming to the university, she spent more than 20 years as a registered nurse, nursing director, and administrative director at hospitals and health care organizations in Southern California.



In Conversation with Al Clark

Al Clark, PhD, is a professor of humanities at the University of La Verne and the driving force behind the university's Oral History Collection. Clark, with support from students in his honors classes, has recorded the memories of more than 950 students, faculty, and staff in order to preserve the university's history from the perspectives of those who lived it.

Q How did the Oral History Collection come into being?

In 2014, with University of La Verne's 125th anniversary on the horizon, I decided to record the memories of university old-timers for the anticipated update of the university's history, written by Gladdys Muir and Herbert Hogan. I inaugurated the collection using a tablet I was given for Father's Day to capture the words and images of significant retirees and alumni.

Q Who has helped you in collecting this history?

I have personally recorded 662 individuals, and 70 honors students in my classes have recorded nearly 300 more. The most important players, however, are the interviewees themselves. Without their generosity in giving their time and memories we would have no oral histories, and the University of La Verne's collective story would be poorer for it.

Q Are you continuing to collect interviews?

I have interviewed continuously since 2014, and I created an honors oral history course in 2020. Since I am retiring after 46 years this June, I am working to interview as many current and former Leopards this year as possible. I hope everyone reading this will reach out to me to schedule an interview to record their University of La Verne story!

Q Why is archiving and sharing our history important?

Much is left out of written histories because the documents they depend upon are limited. Oral history adds a wide range of primary source materials for future historians to use. We don't know what questions later generations might want to ask. The archives will also allow interviewees' descendants to see and hear their progenitors.

Q How does this research help us understand the university's legacy?

Legacy encompasses everyone associated with the university, not just the few who make the history books or have photographs on the wall. Legacy involves more than buildings and bequests, but also people in residence halls, classrooms, and offices as well as on stage and playing fields. Oral history captures a fuller legacy than Board of Trustees minutes and press releases can tell.

Q What is your favorite episode or interview, and why?

Perhaps the interview with the earliest graduate I recorded. Mary Hunter '33 was 101 when interviewed, with a keen mind and sharp wit. She described attending the dedication of Founders Hall in 1927 and Dean Hoover's charm. She met her future husband in La Verne College's required chapel, and she postponed her wedding to earn the money to pay off her student loan of \$100.

Q What is a fun fact about the university's history?

In the 1920s, students strove to distinguish themselves from the high school academy by writing our alma mater, inscribing the "L" on the hillside, naming the *Campus Times*, and composing the college song. Surprisingly, calling themselves Leopards occurred without forethought, apparently because competitors began using nicknames in sports journalism and seemingly primarily because Leopards commenced with "L."



To learn more about the Oral History Collection and view some of the interviews, visit laverne.libguides.com/oralhistory

Dynamic Duos of Planned Giving!

Planned giving is one of many ways to support the University of La Verne. These legacy donations provide impact for years—often decades—after the initial gift.



Toni Sanchez and **Oscar Sanchez** have helped countless students succeed in their education by investing in a charitable remainder trust.



Dee Giannamore and **Joe Fengler '89** give back to the university through their endowed scholarship fund for students in the Campus Accelerated Program for Adults.



Bruce Warner '62 and **Stan Notkin** supported the Ludwick Center with a charitable gift annuity and a cash gift due to their shared values with the new center.

To make a planned gift, donors simply have to include the university in their estate plans, retirement plans, life insurance policies, endowments, or other life planning vehicles. There are multiple options available. These dynamic duos demonstrate a few.

Toni and Oscar Sanchez

Toni and Oscar Sanchez were doing just fine financially. Then, Oscar was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and given less than a year to live.

"I had to ask myself, 'What's Toni going to do if I'm gone?'" Oscar said.

A chance meeting led the Sanchezes to a University of La Verne planned giving seminar where they learned about charitable remainder trusts. The trust gave them a sizable tax deduction and lifetime income, and relieved them of the worries of managing multiple apartments during a critical time of medical uncertainty. Instead of having to work their business, it began to work for them, providing a regular income from the proceeds.

Fortunately, Oscar made an amazing recovery, and more than 20 years later, the couple live happily in their beautiful Claremont home and have spent much of the past several years



traveling around the world. They had no prior connection to the university, but through their subsequent involvement, they have developed a love for our students and a great respect for the core values that make our institution unique.

Dee Giannamore and Joe Fengler '89

Mother and son duo Dee Giannamore and Joe Fengler '89 are very connected to the University of La Verne. Joe is a proud alumnus who now sits on the Board of Trustees. For both members of this dynamic duo, higher education was the key to the lives they wanted to lead.

Dee was a single parent who put herself through college while raising her son. Overcoming numerous challenges, she graduated and went on to work in financial management for several Fortune 500 firms. Joe completed his undergraduate degree in political science here, then went on to complete two master's degrees and work in the federal government for 15 years before settling into his current position as vice president of government relations at Honeywell International.

“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“With my mother’s experience of going back to school, I always had a deep appreciation for those who had to go back to school for whatever reason to finish their education,” Joe said.

Both wanted to give back to the university in a meaningful way. After giving it much careful thought, they decided to create the Small, Great Things Endowed Scholarship Fund for the Campus Accelerated Program for Adults (CAPA) students. Inspired by the Martin Luther King, Jr. quote—“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way”—the scholarship specifically addresses challenges often faced by CAPA students, such as balancing education with family, work, and other responsibilities.

Dee and Joe gifted cash and securities to establish the scholarship, allowing funds to begin helping students right away. Dee also made an IRA rollover gift toward the scholarship, which reduced her taxable income while helping her satisfy required minimum distributions for her IRA account. To ensure the scholarship will have a “forever impact,” Dee made another gift toward the scholarship through her living trust.

Thanks to these two superheroes, many CAPA students will receive the help they need to complete their degrees.

Bruce Warner '62 and Stan Notkin

Bruce Warner '62 and Stan Notkin have been together for almost 45 years. Married in 2008 when same-sex marriage first became legal in California, they are a true example of a diverse household. Bruce grew up Christian in Southern California while Stan grew up Jewish in New York. Bruce was a teacher while Stan was an aerospace engineer.

Years before they met, Bruce transferred to the University of La Verne to obtain his bachelor's degree in history and general elementary credential. He went on to enjoy a fulfilling 35-year career in teaching, mostly as a middle school teacher. He credits the university with his success.

“My experience at La Verne changed my life. Being able to leave home, live in a dorm, make new and lifelong friends, and obtain the degree and teaching credentials that I needed for a career that I ultimately loved was astounding,” Bruce said.

When the university was building the Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding, and Community Engagement, Bruce and Stan were looking for a way to support it. At the time, Bruce was experiencing challenges managing an apartment building his family had owned for decades and was looking for a way to offset a capital gains tax if they sold the property.

With the help of the university's planned giving office and their own professional advisors, they established a charitable gift annuity with the university, and made a cash gift. This helped them offset capital gains taxes and provided a fixed income while making an impactful gift to the university.

Bruce and Stan used part of the proceeds from the property's sale to name the Celebration of Diversity Courtyard at the Ludwick Center. This gift is particularly significant because it reflects the couple's values:

“Being gay, being a couple from differing religious backgrounds, and growing up knowing how important diversity is to our culture, we both were pleased to have that be the name of the place that we were going to help make possible.”



Learn how to make a difference as a legacy donor:
plannedgiving.laverne.edu/plan-your-legacy

ALASTING



1891

LEGACY

iscover
the university's rich
history, diverse community,
and commitment to well-being
by examining our past, present,
and future legacy.

Written by **Alexandra Clayton**



When it opened in 1891 as Lordsburg College, the University of La Verne welcomed 76 students to study in a converted hotel. Fall term tuition was \$11.

Among the first contributions to this new endeavor were gifts of trees and shrubs from people of the community to help beautify the grounds. The inaugural librarian issued a call for books, a pulpit Bible, and a set of encyclopedias. The community provided.

Within the first year, enrollment nearly doubled. Students and faculty rallied together to publish a school newspaper. Unofficial athletics events, such as tennis and bicycling, occurred, often under the moonlight. From those humble beginnings, a legacy was born.

Today, the university boasts five colleges with more than 85,000 alumni worldwide. Over the past 132 years, each generation of students, faculty, staff, leaders, trustees, and friends has helped shape the values and identity of the university, creating a long-lasting impact for those who followed. In the following sections, *Voice* examines the university's Brethren heritage, its emergence as a modern Hispanic-Serving Institution, and how those evolving legacies are being carried into the future.

The Brethren Heritage

Landis. Davis. Hoover. Miller. Hanawalt. Studebaker. Fasnacht. Morgan.

These are some of the names visitors might recognize as they roam the central campus of the University of La Verne. Some may recall seeing them on memorial plaques, residence halls, scholarship programs, and office buildings. Others may remember them fondly as past leaders, professors, and friends. Many of their photos grace the Hall of Presidents in Founders Hall, recognizing the university's heritage.

Historians have documented the university's history since the institution's founding 132 years ago, starting with acknowledging the indigenous Tongva people who stewarded the land on which the university now resides.

In 1887, the Santa Fe Railroad reached Los Angeles, and towns began springing up in the San Gabriel Valley. In 1889, members of the Church of the Brethren arrived in search of economic and religious opportunities. The Brethren are one of the three historic "peace churches," alongside the Mennonites and Quakers, that aim to live a life aligned with the New Testament of the Bible in simplicity and service.

In 1891, Lordsburg's church leaders established Lordsburg College to share the word of God through education and service. Both the college and the city renamed to La Verne in 1917. La Verne College was renamed the University of La Verne in 1977.

Al Clark, professor of humanities and university historian, has studied the university's Brethren heritage.

Clark notes that the Church of the Brethren's current motto, "Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together", contains the origins of the university's present-day values, including service to the community, ethical reasoning, and support of disadvantaged people.

While these themes manifested themselves throughout the college in many ways, they were not intentionally documented until the 1940s. Clark said the university's origins with the Brethren helped shape the institution's bedrock ethos, defined by many who come to the school as "warm," "positive," and "like home."

"It was almost unintentional how the values of the university came to be," Clark said. "Simple, service-minded living has just always been the consistent theme of the Church of the Brethren people, which helps describe their overall actions as a community."

University Chaplain Zandra Wagoner '89 is a direct product of the university-Brethren connection. She grew up attending the La Verne Church of the Brethren with her family, and

found it natural to continue her education at the University of La Verne, due to the kinship she felt with the institution.

"It was a feeling of belonging with strong ties to helping others," she said. "Today, our commitment to belonging and a desire to positively contribute to the world has only deepened and matured over the years as an institution."

Wagoner continues to feel a sense of pride for the university's beginnings, as well as for how the institution has evolved to meet the needs of today while holding true to many of its foundational values.

She fosters an interfaith culture within her chaplaincy, knowing the university continues to practice a culture deeply shaped by commitments to peacemaking, community, social justice, service to others, a values-based education, humility, and academic freedom.

"Our Brethren heritage is valuable. It is a foundational source of our values and pride," she said.

Today, the University of La Verne is a secular institution, but continues to have tangible ties with the Church of the Brethren through alumni, churches in the Western US, and especially through the La Verne Church of the Brethren.

An Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution

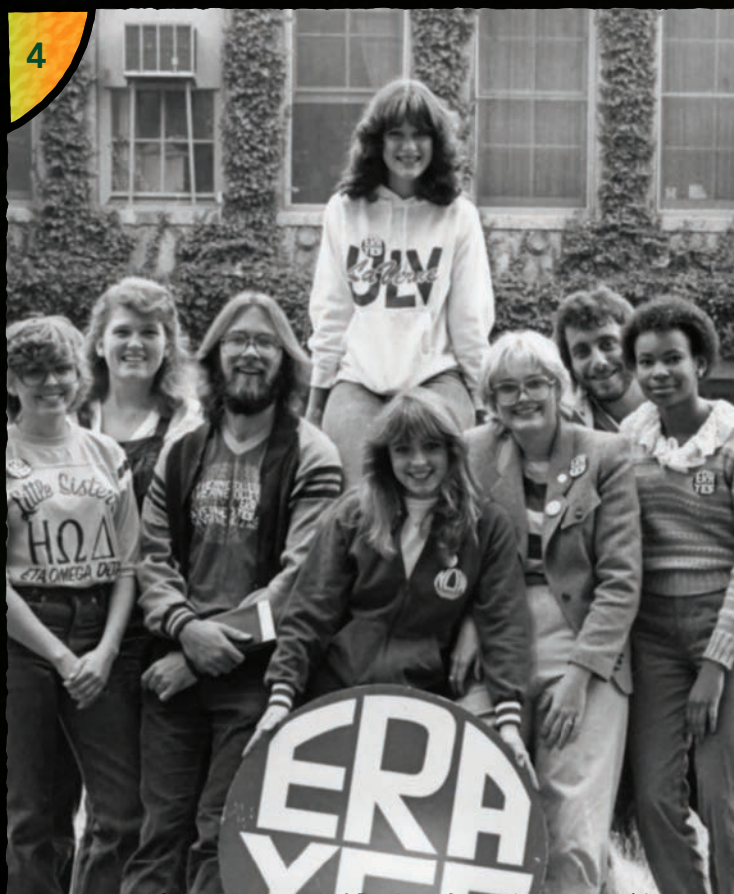
The Southern California region today is a landscape of diversity, with roots in many cultures and walks of life. As the region changed, the university's demographics did as well.

The latter half of the 20th century showcased a noticeable shift in student applications. No longer were most prospective students mainly attracted to the university for the purpose of being Brethren affiliated. Rather, they were applying from the surrounding community, drawn by the welcoming environment and educational quality. Many applicants identified as Hispanic or Latino, reflecting the diversity of the Southern California region.

By 1992, 25 percent of the university's students were Hispanic, earning the university a federal designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI).

Associate Professor of History Allyson Brantley has studied the demographic shift in the region and how it contributed to the university's Hispanic-serving identity.

"The process of becoming an HSI was over 100 years in the making," Brantley said. "It was something that was forged through the citrus industry, wartime shifts, through suburban re-development, as well as demographic changes throughout Southern California."



1. The Church of the Brethren standing tall, a lasting symbol of faith and tradition, in 1931.*
2. The Peace Pole, which symbolizes peace around the world, was dedicated to the university in 1998 and still stands today. Pictured: Former President Stephen Morgan and Campus Minister Deborah Roberts. Photo courtesy: *Campus Times*, Summer Herndon.
3. The class of 1896 at Lordsburg College.*
4. Students gather outside Founders Hall to show their support for the Equal Rights Amendment in 1982.*
5. Students play ball outside Lordsburg College in 1910.*

*Photographs courtesy of the University of La Verne Digital Collections



Student members of the University of La Verne's Latino Club in 1988.

Most importantly, she added, “the road to becoming an HSI was paved by the work and persistence of early cohorts of Hispanic students and Palomares school members who created a network and pathways for others.”

Brantley is one of dozens of contributors to an ongoing, university-wide project called *An Artful Reframing: Heritage, Identity, and Current Context*, which focuses on a more inclusive historical retelling of the university’s history. The project has included stories from alumni, trustees, and students; research projects; and art exhibitions.

Through her research, Brantley uncovered an image from 1988 of 14 students of color under a sign that read “Latino Club—Mi Casa Es Su Casa.”

The photo brought joy to Alexandra Burrel, the university’s chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer, who said it “spoke volumes” to how the university welcomed the gradual diversification of its student body.

“These students felt like this institution was a place that they could call home,” Burrel said. “If this belonging was felt in the community even before our HSI designation was reached, I feel that the university was doing something right.”

Now in its second year, the *Artful Reframing* project continues to build upon the university’s understanding of its legacy and identity.

“By learning more about and promoting our HSI identity, we create confidence and better ownership of ourselves, which will intentionally better serve and support our community,” Burrel said.

The university today has approximately 6,000 traditional-age and adult learners. Of the traditional-age undergraduate students, 50 percent are Hispanic, nearly 80 percent are students from underrepresented populations, and 20 percent are Caucasian.

Forty-four percent are the first in their families to attend college and more than 98 percent of undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid.

A Future of Health and Well-Being

The university continues to evolve, expanding its areas of focus to meet the needs of students and the surrounding region.

In November 2020, the Board of Trustees approved the university’s 2025 Strategic Vision, which included plans to create a new College of Health and Community Well-Being. In summer of 2022, the university’s fifth and newest college was open and ready to serve the region.

The college is focused on addressing complex, community-level inequities that exist in the health and well-being infrastructure, and to help address a critical shortage of workers by training skilled and culturally agile healthcare professionals.

This holistic approach relates directly to the ethos of the university, said Brian Clocksin, former vice provost for strategic initiatives and interim dean for the college.

“The faculty and staff are working together to move the college forward,” Clocksin said. “We’re excited about having it launched, and for the opportunities to further collaborate across units and community partners, which has been wonderful.”

The college offers a new online program for registered nurses to complete their bachelor of science in nursing, along with nine other degree programs, ranging from psychology to kinesiology.

“Each program takes to heart the mission and values of the college, which are based on health equity, social determinants of health, and how to continue to diversify the workforce,” Clocksin said.

Kathy Duncan, MS ’02, EdD ’09, stepped into the role of interim dean of the college in January. She came to the university in 2002 and brings a wealth of experience in management and health, including more than 20 years of service in the healthcare field in Southern California.

Duncan’s dedication to both health and academia make her monumentally qualified for the role, but her kind heart also made her the ideal candidate to advance our legacy at the university.

“In a few years, I hope to hear back from students about how their lives have changed by changing others’ lives,” Duncan said.

The community has rallied to support the launch of the new college, just as it did in 1891 to support the emerging university.

Significant gifts have included, \$720,000 from Adventist Health White Memorial for student scholarships, \$2.3 million from alumna Frances Ware to support the nursing program, and \$5 million from Trustee Paul Moseley ’88 toward a new building to house the college, which is set to be built in Ontario, California.

Duncan sees the College of Health and Community Well-Being as key to the university’s future, while also exemplifying its historical roots.

“The future is set for us to be where the community needs us to be,” Duncan said. “And that’s helping the well-being of our local communities, so that they can thrive.” 🍌

An Artful Reframing: Expanding Our ULV Story through an Inclusive Voice

The University of La Verne’s campus-wide research initiative *An Artful Reframing: Heritage, Identity, and Current Context* seeks to empower a new institutional narrative and vision for the university through critical and creative efforts.

This research project, funded by a NetVue grant, explores the significance of the university’s heritage, seeking to tell a more inclusive history of the institution, while also drawing on its legacy as a resource for its present and future vision.



Local artist Ruby Osorio's watercolor contribution to *An Artful Reframing*, titled *Apparitionist*. Her watercolors present a balance between our environment and our humanity.

The final products of this project include academic essays that will tell a more inclusive history, a permanent public art piece, and a campus-wide art installation that will represent the outcomes of a newly framed university history, heritage, and vision.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the project!





A PORTRAIT *of Success*

Written By
BARBARA GOEN



Photography By
WILLIAM VASTA

Despite being raised in nearby Covina, President Deborah Lieberman had never heard of La Verne College when she was growing up. When her family talked about college, “my parents were focused on public institutions, not private ones. They considered private institutions to be too ‘elite’ for our family.”

Fast forward to 2010, and Lieberman was living in New York, serving as provost at Wagner College, when she was contacted by a search firm. The company wanted to know if she would be interested in adding her candidacy to the pool for the presidency of the University of La Verne. What was once a small college founded by members of the Church of the Brethren, the university was growing its footprint as a diverse and respected academic institution. Still, Lieberman was a bit skeptical.

“Being a university president was not my goal. My goal was to serve university students and to provide opportunities for them to have greater access and achievement,” she said. “And I never expected to hear back from the search firm. This had been a Brethren institution, and I’m a woman named Lieberman, not of Brethren heritage and not male, as the 17 prior presidents had been.”

“I also did not want to take on a new role anywhere unless I was aligned with the mission of the organization. That is my compass for decision-making.”

But the search firm did call back. During the interview, Lieberman visited the University of La Verne campus and discovered that the university was far from a stereotypical example of an elite, privileged private institution. She met the students, the vast majority of whom were from hard-working communities, and many the first in their families to attend college. She listened to the stories of what had brought them to the university and heard of the pride they felt in achieving more than they ever imagined possible.

“This was my first impression of the University of La Verne,” she recalled. “What struck me were the values that were so clear—of giving, humility, caring for the planet, acceptance of others. I knew our values were aligned. I called my husband and said, ‘if they offer me the job, I will accept.’”

They did, and she accepted. In 2011, Lieberman became the 18th president of the university and began a tenure marked by extraordinary institutional growth, achievement, and success. Her tenure will come to an end in July, with her retirement.

The Value of Listening

In the dozen years that Lieberman has led the university, there have been seismic societal changes, but the values that drew her here have never changed.

“I am very proud of what we have achieved as an institution,” she said, “but in this time of political division, I am even more proud of how we have created co-curricular opportunities to learn to communicate across lines of difference. We have created a campus where students can be instruments of collaboration and positivity in their communities, where they demonstrate communication skills, empathy, and the desire to bring people together.”

One of her key methods of sustaining these values is through listening. Shortly after she arrived, she and her leadership team began a strategic vision plan. One of its key goals was to determine what professions the community most needed. They talked to advisory groups, consultants, community organizations, and a council of regional leaders.

“Rather than telling the region what it needs, we listened to what its leaders had to say about preparing our graduates to be career-ready and socially ready,” she said.



President Devorah Lieberman joins colleagues to officially open the Bakersfield regional campus with a ribbon cutting ceremony in 2017.

Those conversations led Lieberman to focus on important new programs designed to prepare students in a variety of fields, including business, entertainment, artificial intelligence, law, and health. Also, a new college has been launched—the College of Health and Community Well-Being.

Within the College of Health and Community Well-Being are ten academic programs with the first allied health programs in the university's history.

"We adjust, adapt, and change by listening, being nimble, and investing in our future," she said.

From the beginning, Lieberman has also listened closely to her Board of Trustees. "If it were not for this board, none of our accomplishments would have happened," she said emphatically. "It takes a great Board of Trustees to set the vision and support the president."

Supporting Students, and Those Who Support Them

According to Board of Trustees Chairperson Anthony Revier, MBA '93, President Lieberman's 12 years of success at raising the funds and gifts needed to support a university deserve accolades. But according to Lieberman, it is not difficult. "I simply tell the students' stories, or have them tell their own stories," she said.

Donor gifts can be sizeable and headline-making, or they can be small and deeply personal. Lieberman reflected on the importance of both.

"When we were building what is now the Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding, and Community Engagement, I explained to the donors that every single student will be able to say, 'I feel like I belong in this building, no matter what my culture, ethnicity, heritage, or background.' The lead donors commented that if they had a place and space like this at their alma mater, they would have had a much more inclusive experience. And then they said, 'we want to give more.'"

Points of Pride

While the president is reluctant to take credit for the university's successes, she happily shared her special moments of pride.

"I am very proud that *U.S. News & World Report* recognized our school in a new category called Social Mobility. The university was ranked as the #6 institution in the country for social mobility, which looks at how effectively the university serves lower-income students."

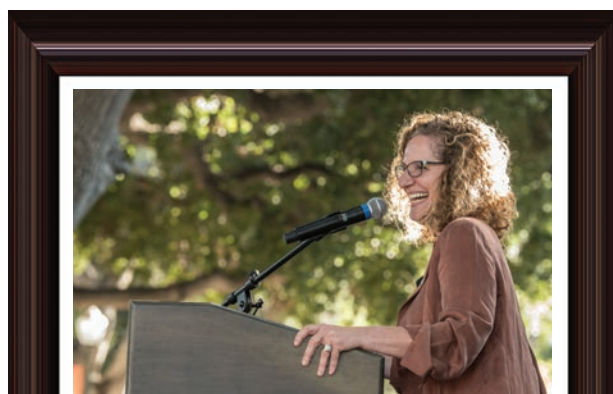
She also pointed to the La Verne Experience, an early innovation during her tenure with multiple touchpoints that effectively connects students more deeply with each other, their professors, the university, their coursework, and the community itself.

Lieberman vividly remembers an early memory as president, watching College of Law graduates who passed the bar exam be sworn in by a judge.

"I was inspired by how proud everyone was. There were so many families, children, and friends attending and applauding," she said.

"I never want to stop giving to the University of La Verne. I love being part of a university that is so committed to its mission. I am honored to be part of something extraordinary."

At the time, the university was striving to achieve its American Bar Association accreditation. But when it was finally granted, Lieberman and the university chose to relinquish it. "As a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), we want to set our own gold standard. We are accredited by the State Bar of California and we will strive to be the best State Bar College in California." She proudly noted that enrollment in the College of Law is higher than ever.



Grand opening speech given by President Devorah Lieberman for the Randall Lewis Center for Well-Being and Research in 2019.



President Devorah Lieberman digs with colleagues during a groundbreaking ceremony for the future space of the Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding, and Community Engagement in 2018.

Meeting the Challenge

Not surprisingly, Lieberman cited the COVID-19 pandemic as her most challenging time as president.

“We did not know if COVID would last two weeks or two years,” she said. But what she and her colleagues did know was that four criteria were paramount. “How do we keep everyone safe? How do we continue to deliver quality education and services? How can we keep our people employed? And how can we still be financially sustainable?”

Over the one-week spring break of 2020, she and her leadership team put in place the steps to move every class and every office online. “We had to support our students and continue to recruit new ones,” she said.

Supporting the students meant much more than simply moving classes online. One day early in the crisis, as she drove through campus, she saw students sitting in parked cars.

“Some of these students didn’t have Wi-Fi at home and had come to campus to do their course work. But others had been living in their cars. We quickly set up a process for moving them into residence halls, and some were there for two years,” she said.

She summarized the experience simply. “I have never been prouder of our faculty, staff, and students,” she said.



From left: President Devorah Lieberman, Jessica Murray '21, former College of Business and Public Management Dean Abe Helou, and University Chaplain Zandra Wagoner at the virtual commencement ceremony in 2021.

The Lieberman Legacy

As the president contemplated her dozen years at the University of La Verne, her memories are both simple and significant.

“I’ll miss walking around campus, sitting in the dining hall with others, going to plays and lectures and athletic events,” she said.



President Devorah Lieberman suits up with the Leopards football team in 2017.

Those sporting events included her own enthusiastic participation. “I’ll miss scrimmaging with the football team once a year, passing and catching,” she laughed.

“I will miss being part of our strategic thinking; asking ourselves ‘what can we do to be the best?’” She has been asked to stay and assist in the transition to a new president, what she refers to as a “transfer of trust.”

“I never want to stop giving to the University of La Verne. I love being part of a university that is so committed to its mission. I am honored to be part of something extraordinary.”



Henry Halpern

A Collection of Jewish Life

WRITTEN BY ALEXANDRA CLAYTON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEANINE HILL

The University of La Verne has received a donation of historical folk-art sculptures from the Malgert Halpern and Irving Cohen family that depict Jewish life and culture in pre-World War II Ukraine and the United States.

The pieces are being preserved through a years-long conservation process led by the Cultural and Natural History Collections (CNHC) and a select team of university staff and students.

The “Henry Halpern Collection of Jewish Life” was created by Henry Halpern, who was born in Ukraine and lived from 1895 to 1979. Many of the pieces depict Halpern’s memory of what Jewish life was like in Ukraine prior to the Holocaust, which led to the ultimate destruction of his community. Others resemble Jewish traditions he preserved while living in the United States.

Each piece is made of delicate greenware, or unfired clay, and some scenes express various depictions of Halpern’s small town or “shtetl.”

“They are expressive, very dynamic, they are very emotive,” said Anne Collier, curator of the CNHC.

Top left: A self-portrait of Henry Halpern sculpted in unfired clay.

*Mother in the UKRAINE-U.S.S.R.
Writing a LETTER to her Son
in the U.S.A*

Bottom left: “Mother in the Ukraine-U.S.S.R. writing a letter to her son in the U.S.A”



A portrait of Henry Halpern, taken during the 1920s, after his arrival to the United States from Ukraine.

The university received 14 mostly intact scenes in early 2022. Each scene includes multiple pieces that tell rich stories from Halpern’s life. His family donated scores of additional sculptures over the following months, many depicting individual characters rather than complete scenes, bringing the number of pieces in the collection to more than 50.

The conservation of these pieces takes time and patience, since they are brittle and heavily aged. They have been moved to a climate-controlled space and have been carefully dusted of years of layered dirt and debris.



After leaving Ukraine, Henry Halpern recreated his memories of life in the shtetl of his hometown Shargorod. This is his portrayal of couples sitting on park benches.

Once the sculptures are cleaned, reassembled, and stabilized, they will be displayed publicly and studied by students. Select scholars will be able to assist in the process of conservation, historical research, and curation, Collier said.

Collier enjoys uncovering the history behind the sculptures and scenes.

"It's the person behind the story, never the object," Collier said. "There's so much more to learn about these sculptures."

Halpern grew up in a religious family in Ukraine and was enlisted in the Russian army during World War I, according to his family. He spent time in an Austrian prison camp and, upon his release, developed the skills to become a tailor. Later, he immigrated to the United States and opened stores that sold clothing and shoes.

"It's the person behind the story,
never the object."

Halpern, who was not formally trained as an artist, created most of the sculptures later in his life, after he retired to California, both to preserve his memories and provide a creative outlet for his energy, according to his family.

Robyn Small served as the Halpern and Cohen family's caretaker for the sculptures and was introduced to the University of La Verne through her husband. After meeting President Deborah Lieberman and Chaplain Zandra Wagoner, Small felt the alignment between Halpern's sculptures and the university's values made the university "the perfect fit" to care for them.

"His gift in forming the clay people was his way of teaching what is important in any culture: working together; debating the meaning of faith; visiting the sick; lively exchanges at the market; simple vignettes of daily life," Small said.

Wagoner agreed that the sculptures embody the university's commitment to interfaith teaching, diversity and inclusivity, and lifelong learning.

"We are so thankful for the opportunity to preserve this history that so easily communicates through its visual representation," Wagoner said. ●

Henry Halpern's family celebrating Passover over a traditional Seder meal.



Bob Dyer '63 forged his athletics legacy at the university by serving as the primary sports announcer for both football and men's basketball since 1987.

Golden Voice



By **Matt Hutaff**

Photography by **William Vasta**

Bob Dyer '63 was the voice of Leopard Athletics for more than three decades. Today, he reflects on both his legacy and the one the University of La Verne has created in the region.

ORTMAYER STADIUM'S broadcast booth is an intimate space. It's not uncommon for a half-dozen people to crowd inside when covering a game, and September 17, 2022 was no different. Balmy weather, clear skies, a vibrant sunset—all the makings of a quintessential football experience.

Calling the action on the field was University of La Verne's announcer. "I'm on the end," he said. "I can't see the north end of the field without stepping back and looking out the door, leaning way forward to see it." (Not that there was much to see; the Pacific Lutheran University Lutes shut out the Leopards that night.) But as the game ended and he stepped out to go home, a proud parent asked the announcer if he'd like to meet their son, a member of the football team. "I reached down and said, 'Hi, I'm Bob Dyer.' And he pauses, shakes my hand, and says back, 'You're Bob Dyer?'"

"That was kind of cool."

Make no mistake—Bob Dyer '63 is a legend. While he'll be the first to admit he's no Vin Scully or Howard Cosell, Dyer forged his athletics legacy at the university by serving as the primary sports announcer for both football and men's basketball since 1987. He is a two-time inductee into La Verne Athletics' Hall of Fame. And, even after announcing his retirement from broadcasting earlier this year, Dyer continues to involve himself with the university as a trustee.

La Verne Athletics tapped Dyer for the announcer role when Peter Baum, his predecessor, retired after 35 years of service. "Without a booth, he would announce most of the time walking among the players on the sidelines or climbing the light posts," he said. "Then [Baum] moved to Utah, so Roland Ortmyer called me to help."

His volunteer spirit continued for 35 years. In that time, Dyer established an impartial voice during games, ensuring both sides got unbiased coverage despite his affinity with La Verne. "I want to win," he said. "I want to be neutral. But my voice goes up a little bit when La Verne scores."

Dyer's love for the university is well-established. A basketball fanatic, he scouted nearby universities for player eligibility while in high school. "I just happened to see a little poster that said 'La Verne College,'" he recalled.

"We came here first, and I knew right away it was where I wanted to attend. And I've never been sorry."

Dyer achieved his goal of playing varsity basketball all four years at University of La Verne. He also met his wife Susan while earning his bachelor's in business administration. The two have been married for 60 years and are active members of the Church of the Brethren. After graduation, he embraced lifelong learning by teaching and coaching in the Chino Valley Unified School District for 37 years. Through it all, the family maintained deep roots with the university and the town that bears its name.

"I don't think everybody gets that feeling, but I definitely did," he said. "I had found a place I felt at home." Dyer still feels the same connection he felt nearly 65 years ago, and the school still exudes the same charm that drew him here despite the campus' transformation over the decades. "When I'm on campus, without a doubt, memories come back," he said. "Wilson Library was a supermarket. When we were first married, we'd buy our groceries there." His dorm room, in what

was then Brandt Hall, is now a part of the Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding, and Community Engagement; the courtyard outside is due in part to his classmate Bruce Warner '62.

Today, the Dyers still live a short walk from campus, and Bob still volunteers in the local community. There's also talk of him continuing his association with Leopard Athletics as a fan ambassador. For now, however, he focuses on serving the university's Board of Trustees, which he joined in 2014.

"I was honored when I was asked to serve," he said. He is excited to help search for the university's next president, which he admits is a tall order.

There's a twinkle in Dyer's eye when he talks about the hundreds of games he's announced over the past 35 years. He almost doesn't want to stop. But he knows it's time to pass the torch—and the soft-spoken way he admits it is a perfect complement to the bombast that carries through a typical Leopard sports event.

And if today's gridiron gladiators still pause to shake his hand when they hear his name? Bob Dyer is fine with that, too. ★

"I don't think everybody gets that feeling, but I definitely did," he said.

"I had found a place I felt at home."



Partnerships Accelerating a Rebuild

In response to new state rules and workforce shortages, the LaFetra College of Education steps up to rapidly train teachers and administrators for evolving roles.



Students **Andrea Nicole Lopez Valdovinos** and **Isabella Jaffe** design curriculum for the universal TK classroom together.

MUCH HAS CHANGED FOR CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

Although most elementary schools offer Transitional Kindergarten (TK), it will soon be mandated statewide under the universal pre-kindergarten umbrella. Four-year-olds are heading toward pre-kindergarten to grade 12 (PK-12) school districts waiting to be received. Meanwhile, public school district student enrollment has dropped statewide, but severe teacher shortages continue to impact high-demand areas such as special education, bilingual education, and STEM subjects. School administrators are also in short supply, but the LaFetra College of Education is continuing to stand up to these challenges with meaningful school district partnerships.

“Coming out of the pandemic, there are major shifts in workforce models,” said Hannah Geddy, EdD ‘21, who is the interim associate dean at the LaFetra College of Education. “We see a lot of teacher burnout. A lot of early retirement. People are exiting, and California is not recruiting and supporting new teachers at the rate we used to.”

Geddy spearheads a growing portfolio of partnerships with California school districts to rapidly build out their workforce pipelines.



Last summer, the LaFetra College of Education launched three non-degree programs to address urgent priorities. The first is a 24-credit transitional kindergarten certificate for elementary teachers who will find themselves working with four-year-olds for the first time. The second, a 24-credit child development teacher permit designed for non-teachers looking to move into TK classrooms as instructional paraprofessionals or into expanded learning programs. And finally, the college offers an accelerated preliminary administrative services credential that qualifies teacher leaders and counselors to rapidly fill the present surge of administration vacancies without pursuing years-long graduate degrees.

AB 130, signed into law in 2021, will be fully enacted in 2025, but some early adopter districts have begun to launch their universal TK programs. The sweeping legislation requires all TK teachers to complete continuing education in early childhood development and all districts to begin accepting younger students. It also cuts in half the adult-to-student ratio for TK classrooms, thereby doubling the demand for qualified instructional staff.

AB 130

AB 130 is a California bill signed into law in 2021 that expands the requirements for teachers to satisfy additional learnings and certifications in early childhood education.

Nearly 50 educators from San Diego Unified School District, Bonita Unified School District, and other school districts throughout the state are already enrolled in LaFetra's new non-degree or credential only programs. La Cañada Unified School District launched its pilot cohort this spring, with more school districts to follow. Enrollment is also open to current LaFetra students who meet eligibility requirements.



An assortment of funding mechanisms support the programs, including the Golden State Teacher Grant program, Educator Effectiveness Block Grants, and Early Education Teacher Development Grants.

LaFetra College of Education Dean M.D. Haque brought Geddy on board last July to be the point-person in negotiating these partnerships and fine-tuning details with individual school districts.

Geddy is well suited to the role. "I speak their language," she said, of her district-based colleagues.

Until recently, Geddy was one of them. Her over 20-year experience in PK-12 settings ranges from high school English teacher to coach to site and district administrator. Most recently, she was assistant superintendent of

human resources with the Temple City Unified School District. Geddy holds master's degrees in rhetoric and composition and educational administration and earned her EdD in organizational leadership at University of La Verne. Her dissertation, written under faculty adviser Shari Fox in 2021, focused on female leadership amid pandemic-driven school closures.

Geddy is looking to expand LaFetra's outreach to several more school districts. New curricula under consideration may lead to future permit programs, certificates, or non-degree credentials in inclusive education, teacher training, and preliminary administration.

"It's a new way of thinking," said Geddy, who is also an adjunct professor in the college's organizational leadership doctoral program. "We're digging deeper and trying to find where school district needs are and what's going well for them."



For example, the San Diego and Fallbrook Union districts have teamed with the college to build a pipeline of homegrown educators. Funded by the California Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program, the partnership recruits non-teaching staff from within the school community—attendance clerks, secretaries, paraprofessionals, and other classified workers—into better-compensated teaching jobs. An innovative "earn-to-learn" model lets these classified employees stay on campus as they work toward a teaching permit, certificate, credential authorization, or academic degree.

"The key here is they can do their student teaching, the practicum that's required for the credential, while earning a paycheck," Geddy said.

Look for more non-degree solutions to come out of the LaFetra College of Education.

"A pandemic wiped out all the sandcastles," Geddy said. "We cannot rebuild the same sandcastles so we're trying to build a different type of sandcastle. We want to give school districts options with whatever needs they have."

Soaring in Service

Alumnus Dana Ealey, MS '96, is prepared to touchdown on an exciting career working in a variety of government organizations.

DANA EALEY, MS '96, WAS IMMERSSED IN A WORLD OF ORDER AND CONSISTENCY WHILE SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

The predictability of his daily routine taught him to, in his words, "expect the expected." However, life after the military wasn't quite as certain or structured. Fortunately, the Master of Science in Business Organizational Management he earned from the University of La Verne while serving in Alaska prepared him for a life and career that was anything but predictable.

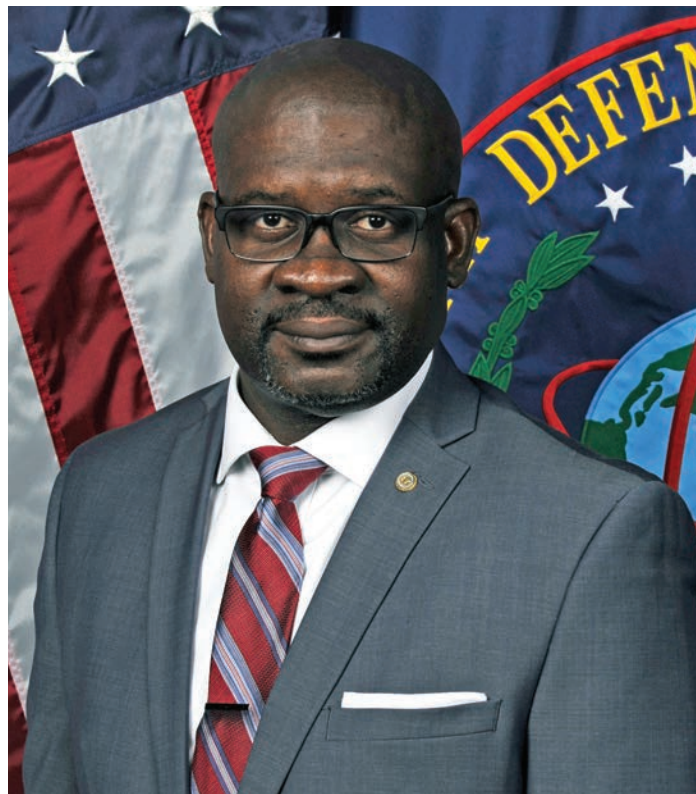
"One of the things we learned in the leadership class was situational leadership theory...the message from that theory and learning about it guided my leadership philosophy of adjusting to situations as they occur and [then] adjusting your leadership style accordingly. I still draw upon much of the knowledge that I learned from that graduate program," he said.

Ealey's career has taken flight since his time in the United States Air Force. His willingness to remain flexible, prepared, and open to new opportunities has helped him navigate his way to some of the top positions in his field.

He spent most of his career in the US government, including time with the Department of Defense, where he served as a senior policy analyst and provided subject matter expertise to Air Force staff at the Pentagon.

After his time with the Department of Defense, Ealey transitioned to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) in 2008 and joined the human resources department, where he spent nine years as a chief of talent management and later as a staff director. Due to his strong leadership skills and willingness to take on new opportunities, he was promoted to a senior level executive position. Better known in the field as Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service, he views his past role in senior leadership at the DIA as the culmination of his career.

During his time with the DIA, Ealey was deployed twice to Afghanistan. His trips gave him the chance to see firsthand how his work contributed to national security. This was an opportunity not typically given to those who serve in human resources.



Dana Ealey, MS '96, attended the University of La Verne while serving in the United States Air Force.

Now the chief of human resources at the Congressional Budget Office in Washington, DC, Ealey works with the agency that provides budget analyses for Congress. While he enjoyed his time serving in the executive branch, he was eager to take on this new position within the legislative branch to see a different side of government.

As Ealey settles into the tail end of his career, he reflects on the ebbs and flows of his professional journey. He is grateful for the knowledge and opportunities that came from both his successes and failures and remains ready and open to whatever life may have in store for him.

"Getting out of the status quo of what you think a career might look like, that staircase pyramid approach is probably long gone from how you progress. It's really your education and breadth of experiences that prepare you," he said.

Brantley's Brewing a Boycott

Professor Allyson Brantley sheds light on the massive anti-Coors movement orchestrated by a wide range of underrepresented groups.

IN THE HISTORY OF BOYCOTTS, THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYTHING QUITE LIKE THE ANTI-COORS MOVEMENT.

For 40 years, a motley coalition of labor unionists, progressive students, feminists, LGBT, Black, Chicano, and Native American advocates stood shoulder-to-shoulder in opposition to the iconic Rocky Mountain brewery.

University of La Verne Associate Professor of History Allyson Brantley poured out this never-before-told tale in her 2021 book, *Brewing a Boycott*.

In the 1950s, the Coors Brewing Company boycott was one of the longest running in US history, fizzling out only in the 1990s after the brewery seemingly capitulated.

But the story doesn't end there. Publicly, the Coors company yielded to labor demands and threw its support behind gay causes, from AIDS research to LGBT-friendly legislation. Privately, the Coors family continued to finance conservative causes through its Castle Rock Foundation.

In what Brantley calls "the boycott that never ended," activists named and shamed former alliance members who waived in their anti-Coors commitments.

To this day, many beer-drinkers—Brantley among them—shun the brand, and the boycott "offers important lessons for today's consumer activists."

Brantley grew up in Boulder, Colorado—just 30 miles from Coors headquarters in Golden. Yet, the boycott's multiethnic dimension wasn't on her radar until she stumbled upon it as a Yale University graduate student researching Mexican American activism in the southwest.

Professor Allyson Brantley teaches courses in US, Latin American, borderlands, and social movements histories.

"One paragraph made passing reference to a Chicano boycott of Coors beer, which I found intriguing," she said. "Coors was the biggest name in my hometown, and there wasn't, at least in the circles that I was growing up in, any discussion of that."

Brantley's Iowa-bred parents had settled in Boulder in the 1970s. Her mother is a retired high school teacher. Her father is a retired city official turned financial planner.

Though her own roots are Midwestern, Brantley has an abiding interest in Latino issues. Fluent in Spanish, her expertise lies in social movements and consumer activism, especially labor histories and the United States-Mexico borderlands. As an undergraduate at the University of Notre Dame, she had spent a summer in service at a Tijuana migrant shelter for men who'd been deported from the US. Later, she spent a year with AmeriCorps in El Paso helping middle schoolers whose families crossed the border.

Brewing a Boycott grew out of Brantley's dissertation. She spent seven years combing archives from Texas to Michigan and gathering dozens of oral histories from long-time activists.

Despite her deep dive into breweries, Brantley doesn't consider herself a beer expert. She enjoys a red ale or IPA, but prefers wine.

Now on the lookout for her next book project, Brantley plans to spend her spring sabbatical investigating friction between the archdiocese and Latino immigrants working in Los Angeles' cemetery industry during the 1990s. Another area of interest: 1980s-era Southern California homeless advocacy.

Since joining the faculty in 2016, Brantley has fully embraced the Leopard community.

"I really love teaching here," she said. "My biggest class right now has 25 students. We can really engage deeply in conversations." Brantley, who gained tenure last summer, also directs the college's Honors and Interdisciplinary Initiatives, serving about 300 undergraduates.



A Labor of Love

Professor Nicole Mahrer leads research into well-being of expecting mothers and newborns.

AS THE MOTHER OF FOUR-YEAR-OLD TWINS, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY NICOLE MAHRER HAS A PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTEREST IN LEARNING ABOUT THE PREDICTORS OF CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORS AND HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.

In the university's new College of Health and Community Well-Being, her research has found a home, where she examines multiple aspects of wellness that impact soon-to-be mothers, infants, and young children.

A pediatric psychologist by training, Mahrer came to the University of La Verne from University of California, Los Angeles in 2019, where she was a post-doctoral scholar with interests in child psychology, health psychology, culture, and prevention.

"I really wanted to teach, do research, and help train a new generation of clinicians," said Mahrer. "At the University of La Verne, that career path is much more doable."

Within the College of Health and Community Well-Being, Mahrer has designed the Child Health, Environment, and Culture Lab. Here, her students can participate in data collection and even bring their own ideas to the research. A few of her students are parents themselves, bringing personal perspectives like Mahrer's to the important subject of children's healthy development.

One of Mahrer's key areas of research is studying mothers-to-be, both pre-pregnancy and during pregnancy, and the impact of their stress and anxiety on their newborns.

"As a researcher, it makes sense to me that what's happening to your body and brain when you're pregnant is going to affect the child that's growing inside you. What was surprising to me, though, was the fact that the impact can start so much earlier, before the pregnancy even happens."

In her studies of four- and five-year-olds, she found that the more anxiety the mother experiences, the more negative

impacts it will have on the developing child's behaviors, including irritability, anger, depression, and sadness.

"Pregnancy anxiety is different than traditional anxiety," she said. Pregnant women generally "worry about how their baby is developing, what kind of medical care they can expect, and ultimately, how they will be as a parent."

Anxiety during pregnancy is also different for communities of color and lower-income mothers-to-be. Spanish-speaking Latinas who are expecting may have additional stressors, Mahrer explained. "Will I be safe in the hospital? Can I communicate with the medical team?"

In addition, her studies show that a mother's high levels of stress before and during pregnancy may impact the birth outcome and how her child ages and reacts to their own stress. According to Mahrer, stress can also increase the chances of having a low-birthweight baby, defined as weighing less than 5 pounds 8 ounces.

Her work also differentiates how much stress a mother-to-be perceives—how overwhelmed she feels, her inability to cope—from the actual stressors that are happening in her environment.

Mahrer explored the effects of stress pre-conception in a diverse low-income population. Her findings reveal that the more environmental stressors a woman experiences before even becoming pregnant, like financial difficulties, job loss, interpersonal violence and discrimination, the more likely she is to have a shorter gestation and a premature birth.

Surprisingly, birth outcomes can even be impacted by having experienced too little stress pre-conception. "Pregnancy itself is a stressor, so if you have no experience with stress and anxiety, you really don't know what to expect," she said.

Professor Nicole Mahrer's current interests are in child psychology, health psychology, culture, and prevention.





Marriages

1 Melissa Procopio '15 married Mitchell Taylor Aleman on October 2, 2021.

2 Tala Achi-Mueller '19 married Grant Mueller on September 4, 2022.

Brittany Tucker '12 married Preston Tucker at Sundowner Ranch in Lucerne Valley, California on November 19, 2022.

3 Niki Alilović-Allen '16 married Eric Allen at St. Anthony Croatian Catholic Church in Los Angeles on November 5, 2022.

4 Shannon Tunno '17, MBA '20, married Tony Tunno at Leo Carillo Ranch Historic Park in Carlsbad, California on July 8, 2022.

Justin M. Moore '83, MBA '87, married Inna Kallas in March 2022 in Boca Raton, Florida.

5 Lauren Russell '16 married Connor Russell on October 1, 2022.

Cecilia Ramirez-Thompson '13, MHA '18, MS '18, married Isiah Michael Thompson in Los Angeles, California on June 5, 2022.

Michael Wahba '13 married Lauren Gould on October 15, 2022.

6 Rebecca Christie-Phillips '14 married Robby Joe at Monsarate Vineyards and Winery in Fallbrook, California on December 10, 2022.

Christian Garay '17 married Chelsa Nacpil on December 10, 2022.



Births

7 Danielle Linker '13 and Joshua Linker, MBA '13, welcomed their first child, Noah Patrick Linker, on July 11, 2022.

Beth Zuppari '15 welcomed her first child, Zachary Nicholas Zuppari, on August 27, 2022.

Dallas Quinones '16 and Zach Quinones '15 welcomed their second child, Chevelle Rose Quinones, on July 10, 2022.

Jessica Mitchell '18 welcomed her first child, Miller Blake Mitchell, on September 10, 2022.

8 Melissa Molinaro-Norys '14 welcomed her second child, Elina Marie Norys, on July 19, 2022.

9 Amanda Miller '09, MEd '11, EdD '18, welcomed her second child, Jessee Jade "JJ" Miller, on September 12, 2022.

10 Rachel Lam '15 welcomed her second child, James Ruben Lam, on October 24, 2022.

11 Bianca Becker '17, MEd '20, and Eric Becker '15 welcomed their first child, Rylee Renee Becker, on September 8, 2022.

Reina Santa Cruz '06, MS '13, and Philip Kral welcomed their first child, Jameson, on June 21, 2022.



In Memoriam

Margaret Kirkwood '01, MBA '07, passed away on April 2, 2022. She worked at the university for 25 years. Her passion to help all students with their finances, especially those who were first-generation and underrepresented, was a driving mission for her.

Al Rouse '64 passed away of cancer on July 5, 2022. He was 80 years old. He attended La Verne College with his older brother Jack Rouse '61 and earned his bachelor's degree in public administration. He taught in Southern California before serving in the United States Army for two years. After teaching, he worked as a real estate agent, then acquisition agent for the state of Washington. He played baseball under Ben Hines as a student and continued to be active throughout his life, especially with golf. He is survived by his brother Jack, sister Marilyn, his wife Karen, and four children: Christine, Kim, Reena, and Ron. He leaves nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

12 Joanne Rider, MEd '87, passed away to Alzheimer's disease on November 14, 2022. She was 90 years old. She earned her master of education and dedicated her life to her love of teaching for over 20 years, primarily at Roberts Elementary School in the San Juan Unified School District. She is survived by her family, her husband of 54 years, Jerry Rider, daughters Pamela and Jennifer; son Bryan; grandchildren Clint, Collin, Chris, Ryan, Kevin, Andrew, Emily, and 12 great-grandchildren.

13 Tiffany Ann Mendez '09, MEd '13, EdD '18, passed away to cancer on May 1, 2022. She was 34 years old. She worked for the University of La Verne for almost five years in roles including student accounts representative, financial aid counselor, and assistant director of graduate academic services. She is survived by her family, her husband David, and her two young children.

Dave Weber '83 passed away on December 3, 2022 at Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, Washington. He was 67 years old.

Paula J. Stanley '50, La Verne College alumnus and former Board of Trustees member, passed away on November 20, 2022. She was 94 years old.

Carol Kaser '74 passed away on December 20, 2022 after a year of fighting cancer. She graduated with a bachelor of arts. She loved to read and travel across all 50 states. She started her career at La Verne College registrar and admission office. She later moved to Woodbury University and then Pasadena City College as Supervisor of Admissions and Records, retiring after 20 years of service. She lived most of her adult life in Claremont, California.

Retirements

Gail Heisel '82, MS '88, retired after 32 years as a school counselor in the Chino Valley Unified School District. Prior to her employment there, she worked as the executive assistant to the president of the American Armenian International College at the University of La Verne.

Awards and Achievements

Michele Assael-Shafia, JD '95, won a University of La Verne 2022 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Ashley Lauren Joseph '08, MS '11, EdD '21, serves as the Director of Women's Leadership and Community Engagement at Mount St. Mary's University, Los Angeles.

14 Penelope DeLeon, EdD '14, joined the Board of Directors at the non-profit organization Shoes That Fit. She is the former superintendent of Glendora Unified School District and prior to that, the Oxnard Union High School District.

Damian G. Garcia, JD '05, has been appointed to serve as a judge in the San Bernardino County Superior Court.

15 Steven Torrence '15 has been selected as the new Director of Emergency Management with the Marin County Fire Department.

Erika Ramirez, MS '08, started a new role for Western Governors University as bursar.

Ryan Lewis, EdD '13, has been appointed Superintendent of Lake Elsinore Unified School District.

Astrid Montano, MS '19, was named honoree for Teacher of the Year by the Kern High School District for serving Bakersfield High School.

Julia Ruedas, MPA '18, won her seat to the El Monte City Council during the 2022 general election.

16 Julian Mininsohn '15 is the sports director with 4 News Now in Spokane, Washington.

17 Douglas Lusk, JD '18, was recognized in *CIO Views Magazine* as one of the top 10 most inspiring people in legal services for 2022.

Christine Boyer Balbuena, EdD '21, Michelle Kechichian '93, MBA '95, EdD '21, Isabel Orejel, MEd '06, EdD '21, and Patricia Tucker, EdD '21, presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference.

Jake Fisher, MPA '20, was appointed to chief of police for the El Monte Police Department.

18 Janet Nix, EdD '01, has been appointed chief human resources officer of Yavapai College.

Amanda Fischer, MEd '06, was appointed CEO of the charter school network iLead California Schools.

Joshua Bay '19 is an editorial fellow at The 74, a non-profit non-partisan news site covering education in the United States.

Linda Landis '06, MS '09, was named vice president of compliance/BSA for Georgia United Credit Union.

Charlie Neff '10 is an Emmy award-nominated producer for TMZ.

19 Christopher Rizzotti '89 was voted best realtor in myBurbank's Best Contest 2022.

Madeline Ruiz '21 interned at the House of Representatives and now serves as associate for EY Parthenon consulting firm. She also helps recruit Latina women to public service.

Jean-Simon Serrano, JD '06, associate at Inland Empire personal injury firm Heiting & Irwin, was installed as President of Consumer Attorneys of Inland Empire at the December 2022 Board Meeting.

Diane Goodman, JD '84, has been appointed to serve as a judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court.



Super Tents Celebrate 50-Year Anniversary

IN 1968, THEN-LA VERNE COLLEGE PRESIDENT LELAND B. NEWCOMER '42 WAS TASKED TO CREATE NEW FACILITIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S RAPIDLY GROWING FOOTPRINT.

Newcomer recalled five years later that he was "literally barraged with requests from faculty, students, and darned near everybody for new buildings. We needed a new gym. We needed a new theater and creative arts building. An accreditation committee that visited us said our number one need was for a student union." (*San Bernardino Sun*, May 16, 1974)

The old gymnasium, built around 1920, was leaky and the university needed a replacement space for physical education. The campus also lacked a gathering place, a theater, and needed additional classrooms and office space. Campus leaders estimated it would cost \$7 million to \$10 million to meet the campus' need for increased space.

To help fund the project, Newcomer secured a grant from the Ford Foundation's Educational Facilities Laboratory. Campus officials, members of the faculty, and professional architects spent two years designing a structure to fit the needs and budget of the college.



Traditional architectural solutions proved financially restrictive. As a result, the Board of Trustees voted in 1970 to create a pair of buildings using experimental design. The project team proposed a new type of construction with a fiberglass exterior coated in Teflon. The two structures would ultimately take the shape of a set of tents with pointed peaks jutting into the sky.

In addition to housing the student center and theater, the plans included a snack bar, pool tables, and classrooms; ultimately striking a balance between educational and leisure space.

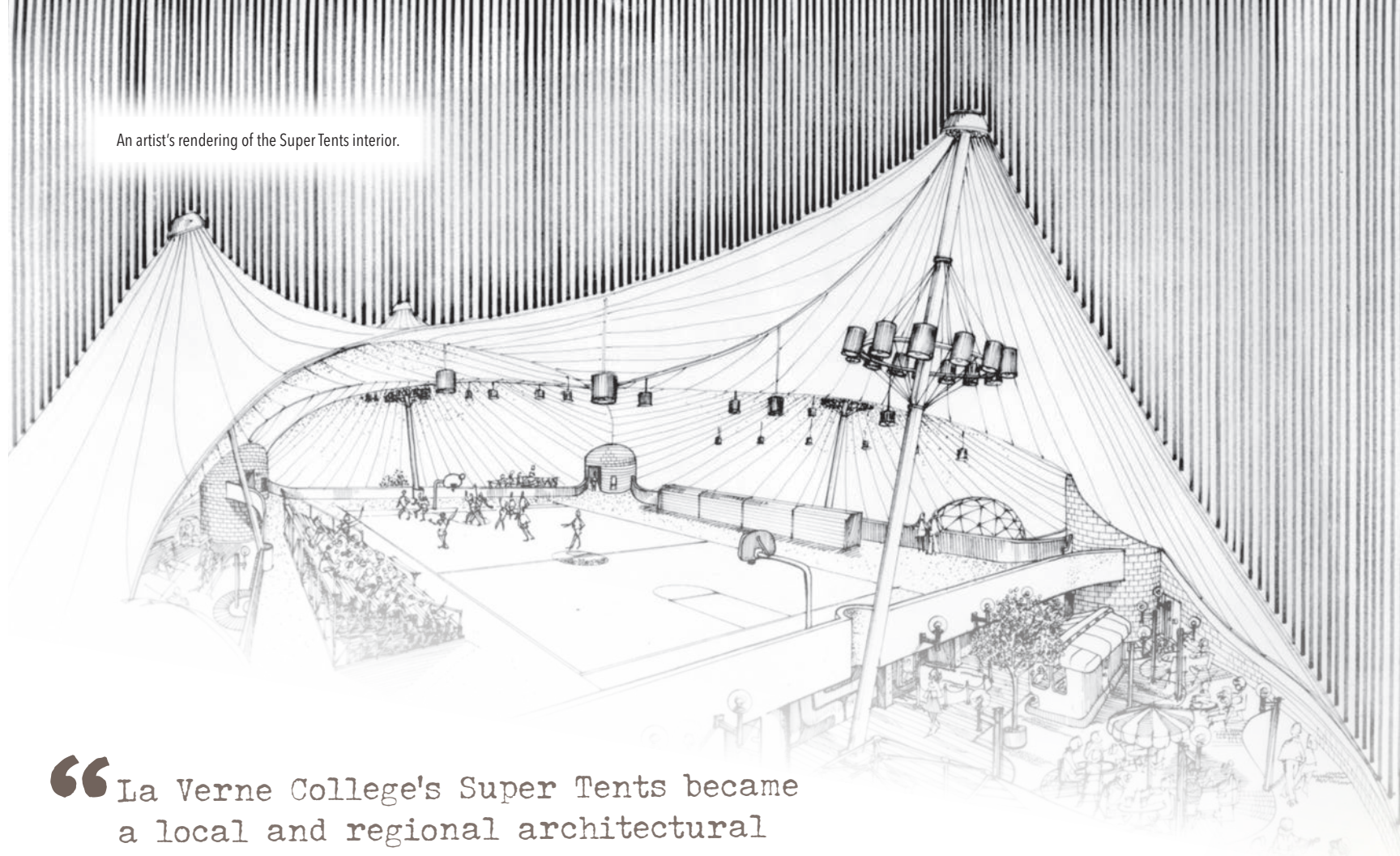
When completed, the Student Center and Dailey Theatre would comprise a total of 68,383 square feet spread across 1.4 acres. The college spent \$3 million to complete the structures, a much lower price tag than a conventional building would have carried. In addition to saving millions of dollars for La Verne College, this strategy guaranteed the institution would become an architectural pioneer with an iconic campus landmark.

La Verne College celebrated the completion of the Super Tents in 1973. College leaders stressed that, despite the superficial resemblance to tents, the buildings were permanent, not temporary, with Teflon protecting them from fire and inclement weather.



Workers installing support structures underneath the canvas of the Super Tents.

An artist's rendering of the Super Tents interior.



“La Verne College's Super Tents became a local and regional architectural phenomenon—and a curiosity.”

Around 1980, the multipurpose building added more programs and services including a radio station, a darkroom, offices for the student-led newspaper the *Campus Times*, social space, and a basketball court and portable bleachers that could house 800 spectators. Locker rooms, classrooms, and offices completed the building.

La Verne College's Super Tents became a local and regional architectural phenomenon—and a curiosity. Professor of History Nicholas Polos, in an article about the Student Center and Dailey Theatre, playfully referred to the buildings as “Circus-Circus” or “The Udder Thing.”

The innovative buildings attracted significant, sustained press coverage. DuPont Corporation, the company that developed Teflon, aired a commercial about the Super Tents. KABC, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *Los Angeles Times* all reported on the Super Tents. Architectural journals regularly covered the buildings. Per *Fabrics & Architecture*, the buildings became the “first permanent, enclosed membrane structures in the United States to use PTFE-coated fiberglass fabric.” Other buildings

followed the model offered by La Verne College and adopted fabric structures.

In 2023, 50 years after completion, the Super Tents continue to meet the needs of what is now the University of La Verne. A weight training center and the offices of the kinesiology department maintain the building's link to physical education. A basketball court on the second floor doubles as event space. The Hall of Fame and an installation about the history of athletics at the university solidify the building's link to its history. Finally, the Dailey Theatre continues to showcase the talents of the theater department. In short, the Super Tents remain a vibrant element of campus culture.

University of La Verne

University of La Verne
1950 Third Street
La Verne, CA 91750

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UNIVERSITY
OF LA VERNE



Forward together. This is belonging.

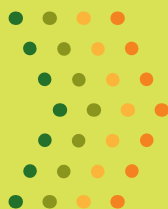
GENEROSITY FROM UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS PROVIDES THE MARGIN OF DISTINCTION THAT MAKES A UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE EDUCATION SECOND TO NONE.

Annual Giving sustains and enhances the university's distinctive character and brings together Leos of all generations as one family.

Be the difference you want to see.
Scan the QR code to change a life.



Homecoming and Family Weekend



SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 13-15, 2023