October 11, 2011

Dear Campus Community:

In the spirit of maintaining on-going and consistent communications with members of the La Verne community, I plan to send regular updates to you throughout the year. This October communication clarifies the current status of upcoming activities, issues and challenges at La Verne.

ENROLLMENT INCREASES: We are pleased with our aggregate enrollment increase. Enrollments in our traditional-age undergraduate programs, CAPA and MBA are at record levels and RCA enrollments are above our projections, making this another successful year for the university. There is great excitement surrounding a new online program, a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, which was launched this fall and is accepting students.

UP THROUGH THE RANKS: Several national rankings have come out in the last few weeks. La Verne continues to be ranked in the top tier of national universities by U.S. News & World Report. The university moved up 57 places this year in the Forbes “America’s Best Colleges” list. Washington Monthly magazine has again included the University of La Verne in its annual College Guide & Rankings issue. In the 90th spot in the National Universities category — its highest position ever — La Verne moved up 30 spots from the 2010 ranking.
**WASC ACCREDITATION:** La Verne is currently preparing its report to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) for its Educational Effectiveness Review as a part of our institutional re-accreditation. Faculty and staff, representing areas across campus, have worked on this 50-page report. Over the next two months, we will hold a series of community dialogues focused on the conclusions and recommendations of the report. Your feedback is important as we finalize the final report that is due into WASC in January. A site team will visit us later in the spring and the WASC Commission will make their recommendation in June.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO RECOGNIZE:** We should all be impressed with the accomplishments of our faculty and students. Most recently featured on the university web site are presentations by Chuck Doskow, Ken Marcus, and Megan Granquist; publications by Cleveland Hayes, Loren Dyck, Nadine Nakamura and Rocio Rosales Moza; and an award to Janis Dietz. Also, two of our seven La Verne student video finalists won first place at the Western Area Video Excellence (WAVES) awards, which honor the best public access TV productions the Western United States. Winners are: *Party Foul*, produced by Anthony Troli, Micky Pollock, Chelsea Stark-Jones, and *Sizzlin’*, produced by Daniel Bateman, Marie Tabarez, Kaitlin Hollingsworth. You can find additional information at: [http://laverne.edu/news/](http://laverne.edu/news/)

**COLLEGE OF LAW ACCREDITATION:** In June, the College of Law was granted a waiver of the normal 10-month waiting period to re-apply for provisional ABA approval. And, in September, an ABA site team completed its visit. The team will submit their findings to the ABA and the College of Law will be able to re-apply for provisional approval to the Accreditation Committee in January and to the Council in March.
CEOL OUTREACH: The College of Education & Organizational Leadership is creating two professional development schools with Pomona Unified School District and Etiwanda School District, and is working on partnerships with Bonita Unified School District.

RESIDENCE HALL RISES: Construction moves forward on the new Residence Hall, part of the university’s 10-year Master Plan. The new facility is designed to enhance the residential experience for students in close proximity to the center of campus, and is likely to be finished late next summer. The new parking lot adjacent to the Residence Hall opened on September 27, and is helping to ease the parking situation considerably.

TRACK & FIELD RENEWAL AND RENOVATION: Another project that will improve conditions greatly for our student-athletes will begin soon. We have begun to move forward on plans to renovate the football field and track, which will include a new scoreboard and lighting. These renovations will include a new synthetic track and an artificial turf football field that can also be used for soccer and lacrosse. Construction is scheduled to start in November 2011, with completion anticipated by July 2012. The renovated field will be located within the same footprint as the existing facility. Artificial turf, with separate field markings for football, soccer and lacrosse will allow the field to be used for multiple sports and for student recreational and instructional activities. The existing track will be replaced with a new subsurface and synthetic eight-lane track. Renovations will provide new areas for high jump, pole vault, long jump and steeplechase and will allow for discus and javelin practice (using a rubber tip). The new lighting, with city approval, will allow night soccer games, as well as other events. Meetings are underway with several departments, including the offices of Communications, Commencement, Event Scheduling and
Facilities to discuss how these renovations may affect future non-athletic events.

**RETIREMENT OPTIONS:** Updated improvements are coming to our retirement plans in 2012! Although the “go live” date has not been finalized, after the first of the year, both TIAA-CREF and Fidelity Investments will be available to all eligible faculty and staff. Watch for more information from our office of Human Resources.

**INAUGURATION APPROACHES:** I am humbled by the positive response to the Inauguration and Academic Symposia planned for October 21. Nearly 900 have already RSVP’d to attend the formal ceremony at 4:00 p.m., and more than 400 are expected to attend the symposia and luncheon with keynote speaker. I anticipate that the symposia will be instrumental in bringing La Verne further into the national conversation around themes grounded in our mission, and that the prominent national speakers and visiting VIP’s will acquire both a profound and deep respect for the academic excellence and civic engagement represented at La Verne, as well as how the fundamental values of our mission are woven through all that we do. If you are planning on attending it is not too late to RSVP.

[http://laverne.edu/inauguration/schedule/](http://laverne.edu/inauguration/schedule/)

**HOMECOMING WEEKEND:** My husband (Roger), children (Allie and Emery), and I are excited about participating in Homecoming weekend October 22-23 and spending personal time with students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends throughout the weekend’s activities. We look forward to seeing you at the student club fair, picnic and football game, and to visiting with alumni who are celebrating their decade reunions.

[http://laverne.edu/inauguration/homecoming/](http://laverne.edu/inauguration/homecoming/)
This is the first “The President’s Pause” communication. Anticipate the November “Pause” providing additional information regarding events, issues and items of note.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
President