October 25, 2011

Dear Campus Community:

Before our week becomes too hectic and full of activity, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for participating in a memorable several days: (1) The Friday morning inspirational symposia that reflected our university foundational values; (2) The remarkable Friday luncheon with alumni Wendy Lau and Terry Deal and keynote speaker Lee Shulman; (3) The memorable inauguration ceremony; (4) The winning homecoming football game against Chapman University; and, (5) The fun-filled homecoming and reunion activities.

What a remarkable time for our students, faculty, staff, administrators and surrounding communities. I believe that everyone on the campus was touched, in some way, by these events and the enthusiasm that continues to build. Based on our solid 120-year foundation, we, together have much yet to accomplish.

In your spare moments, I invite you to go to our Web site and see what the Advancement Office has posted within the last 72 hours. You will see a gallery of pictures that capture the rapt attention of audience members at the symposium and luncheon, a supportive community at the inauguration
ceremony, school support at the homecoming football game, and hundreds of enthusiastic attendants at our homecoming/reunion activities. The pictures capture a university bursting with pride and anticipation for all our future will bring.

Here are a few statistics that are a reminder of how strongly our community came together these last few days, which you might find intriguing:

1. An estimated 1,500 people attended the inaugural ceremony
2. Nearly 900 attended the morning’s four symposia
3. 415 attended the luncheon address
4. 225 La Verne faculty processed at the inauguration
5. 40 delegates processed at the inauguration representing other institutions of higher education.
6. Over 219 La Verne staff and volunteers supported the inauguration events
7. 55 people attended from Wagner College, and 50 additional friends and colleagues (from my former institutions and walks of life) attended from across the country
8. 1,700 alumni attended homecoming and reunion

Our updated Inauguration Web site has images, video, a full text of the inaugural address, and more at http://laverne.edu/inauguration/. There is also a nice article in the VOICE Online: http://laverne.edu/voice/
A video and photo gallery from Homecoming have been posted on the Alumni Relations Web site: http://sites.laverne.edu/alumni/

If I have not had a chance to talk with you or thank you personally these past few days, let me do so here. Without the tireless (it truly was tireless) efforts of all who supported these events, they would not have exceeded our expectations. This included months and months of preparation, Web site development, registrations, brochures, media outreach, and organization. Nearly every staff member and department played a role in organizing, directing traffic, handing out brochures, seating individuals new to campus, and/or acting as an ambassador. And, leading, coordinating, cajoling, and visioning throughout was the indominateable, Bianca Romero, Director of Special Events for University Advancement.

I could hardly contain the pride I felt for who we are, what we represent and all that I anticipate we will accomplish together. Thank you again for being a participant in our symposia, luncheon, inauguration, football game, homecoming and reunion.

It is with complete sincerity when I say, “Today is our moment…Tomorrow is our future.”

Sincerely,

Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
President